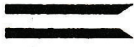


Butler Armco Independent Union

Exhibit 18



P.O. Box 2128
Butler, PA 16003

Phone 724/284-2248 • Fax 724/284-2956



May 29, 2001

Dear Joe:

I contacted your home by telephone, and left you a message on your answering machine, on Thursday, May 24, 2001, advising you that the Company has declined your request to have your wife and a videographer attend the Step III Hearing scheduled for Wednesday, June 6, 2001 at 10:00 AM in the Apprentice Testing Room at the AK Butler Works. The Company will not respond in writing.

Since you have not responded to my message, I write to confirm that the Union will proceed with the Step III Hearing on that date at 10:00 AM. I strongly urge you to be present and cooperate with your Union in the presentation of evidence and arguments on your behalf at that time and place.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Fraternally,

Carl V. Nanni, President
Butler Armco Independent Union