



January 27, 2017

Dear USW Member,

In response to advocacy by the United Steelworkers, the United States Department of Labor has issued a new rule stating that workers can establish eligibility for TAA benefits, including TRA cash benefits, based on a separation from work which is due to a lockout. This new rule is the result of the Steelworkers' fight on behalf of ATI workers to overturn the Department's previous rule which disqualified locked-out workers from receiving TRA benefits.

**The deadline to apply for benefits and enroll in qualified training programs has been extended until March 31, 2017** by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. This extension applies to all workers covered by the TAA petitions filed by the USW at Bagdad, Brackenridge and Midland, regardless of whether you previously applied for benefits or not.

ATI workers who previously received a negative determination based on their August 15, 2015, separation due to the lockout will receive a new determination applying the Department of Labor's new guidance. Any ATI workers who did not apply for Trade Act benefits or who applied for those benefits but did not enroll in training will receive notification from the PA Department of Labor and Industry about their potential eligibility for benefits.

ATI workers seeking cash benefits or training must comply with various procedural steps in order to qualify. Getting TRA cash without being in training is particularly difficult.

In order to assist workers in applying for, and maximizing, benefits, USW has coordinated with Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry Rapid Response and Mon Valley Unemployed Committee to hold benefit rights meetings for all ATI workers.

**Meetings will be held:**

**Thursday, Feb. 9, 2017 at 10:00 AM**

**USW Local 1138 Union Hall, 331 Market St, Leechburg, PA 15656**

**Thursday Feb. 9, 2017 at 4:30 PM**

**Lincoln Park Alumni Hall, 1 Lincoln Park, Midland PA 15059**

(The same information will be provided at both sessions. You only need to attend one.)

Representatives from Pennsylvania Rapid Response will present important information about the application and training enrollment process. The Mon Valley Unemployed Committee has been a leader in advocating for unemployment compensation and TAA/TRA benefits for over thirty years, and has represented thousands of workers fighting for benefits throughout Western Pennsylvania free of charge. We strongly encourage you to attend one of these meetings



if you are considering applying for TAA or TRA benefits, or have previously applied and been denied eligibility.

Please contact the Mon Valley Unemployed Committee at (412) 462-9962 if you have any questions.

In Solidarity,

*Wayne Donato*  
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Staff Representative

*Katharine J. Shaw*  
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