



WESTERN NEW YORK AREA LABOR FEDERATION, AFL-CIO

2495 Main St. Suite 440, Buffalo, NY 14214 • 716-852-0375 (Voice) • 716-855-1802 (Fax)

Labor Councils: Buffalo, Cattaraugus/Allegany, Dunkirk, Jamestown, Niagara/Orleans



Tesla Worker Solidarity Statement

Tesla Gigafactory 2 is in operation today because of a massive investment of public money. Tesla was given \$750 million in taxpayer money to build its solar production facility located in Buffalo, totaling 1.5x more than the entire City of Buffalo's annual budget.

It has come to our attention that workers at the Buffalo facility have filed complaints with the New York State Division of Human Rights and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission of the Federal Government on the issue of racist and discriminatory practices.

These charges mirror similar experiences across the country. Workers in Tesla's Fremont facility have reported threats, racist graffiti, humiliation and barriers to employment. Elon Musk's previous response to the widespread racist abuse across his company was to write a company-wide email suggesting employees "not to be huge jerks" while also blaming victims, urging them to "be thick-skinned" and "accept apologies." This strategy of denial and minimization of harm is used to avoid responsibility and justifies future violence. This failure to acknowledge the real problem of rampant racism in the workplace or offer any meaningful support or recourse to employees of color, is unacceptable.

We commend the courage of workers to come forward and expose Tesla's discriminatory practices. We know that exploitation, institutional racism, and job abuses are maintained by institutional structures that preserve power and wealth for a select few. Public money should not be allowed to subsidize business that promote a culture of racial discrimination.

We call on Tesla to end any and all abuse, and repair the harm done to workers of color at their Buffalo facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Lipsitz".

Richard Lipsitz, President

Western New York Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO