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Sen. Agard: Stands with SMART Local 565 on strike against mandatory overtime

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Sun Prairie, WI – State Senator Melissa Agard (D-Madison) stood with members of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART) Local 565 for a fair contract that would end management's mandatory overtime rules at Trachte Building Systems. Trachte is seeking the right to impose unlimited mandatory overtime over the next three years.

Senator Melissa Agard released the following statement:

"Workers' rights are human rights. I am proud to stand with SMART Local 565 as they fight for a fair contract. Everyone deserves a work-life balance, reasonable hours, and a fair wage—but workers at Trachte Building Systems are facing forced overtime, with most of their workers clocking an average of 60 hours a week.

"This is unreasonable and unsafe. No worker should be forced to work extended hours at the last minute. Workers are people first, employees second—all workers deserve more than enough time to rest and spend time with their family. Unlimited mandatory overtime is absolutely unacceptable and a terrible abuse of power by those in charge.

"We can't stand for unsafe and unfair labor practices. I implore Trachte Building Systems to honor their workers with a reasonable contract that does not abuse their employees' time, efforts, and energy."