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Injustice at Brewton Mill

While preparing to present the master level tentative agreement recently reached with International Paper we learned that Smurfit Stone had sold its Brewton, AL paper mill to Georgia Pacific. Showing what can only be defined as a despicable and callous disregard for our members' life-long investment in the Brewton Mill, Smurfit Stone sold the mill to Georgia Pacific (Koch) as an asset sale, conspiring to literally throw our sisters and brothers into the street, while planning to continue to operate the mill.

Plant closures are tragic and devastating enough but imagine your employer selling your worksite with the intent to keep it running and finding out both the buyer and seller intend to kick everyone to the street and [allow you to re-apply for your job as a new employee](#), if they decide they want you back. If they do decide to hire you, you would return with no seniority or vacation and at whatever pay rates and benefit levels they choose to offer. There would be no contract or even the right to union representation, if less than 50% are re-hired.

□ Neither Smurfit Stone nor Georgia Pacific can escape their role in this pathetic disregard for our brothers and sisters. Smurfit Stone could have easily resolved this situation by agreeing to a successorship clause, which they had previously committed to do at all USW sites as contracts renewed. Georgia Pacific, with numerous other USW represented sites, should have continued the employment of those who had invested their lives into the Brewton mill rather than throwing them in the street. They could have and should have either accepted the contract currently in place or at least been willing to negotiate a new contract with our sisters and brothers.

THIS KIND OF BEHAVIOR CANNOT BE TOLERATED! Both Smurfit Stone and Georgia Pacific must understand that an insult and injury to one is an insult and injury to all. We are now preparing to show our support for our sisters and brothers in Brewton, AL and our disdain for both Smurfit Stone and Georgia Pacific. We will be contacting everyone very soon and asking for your support.

In Solidarity,
Stan Johnson
Director, USW District 9