

November 3, 2025

Wendell P. Weeks
Chief Executive Officer and President
Corning
1 Riverfront Plaza
Corning, NY 14831

Dear Mr. Weeks:

I am writing to urge you to immediately stop your illegal union-busting and allow Corning workers to exercise their constitutional right to unionize with the United Steelworkers. As you know, Corning workers in North Carolina and Michigan—including contractors and those who work for Corning subsidiaries—are unionizing for a voice in their workplace and the ability to negotiate for decent wages, benefits and working conditions.

I recently met with a number of your workers and what they described to me was shocking. I was told their jobs are so physically demanding that they are reliant on pain medication in order to get by and to continue doing the essential work for your company that makes it so profitable. These same workers are forced to switch between day and night shifts, sometimes within a 24-hour period, creating even more strain on their health and well-being.

On top of that, I understand that some of your workers make as little as \$20 an hour and are forced to remain on-call, sometimes being told they have to report to work with as little as two hours of notice—or else face potentially losing their jobs. It is unconscionable that workers are forced into months of mandatory overtime with very little notice, leaving them no time to take care of themselves and their families.

It is understandable that these workers feel that their only option to improve their working conditions is to exercise their constitutional right to form a union and collectively bargain for better working conditions. However, it is deeply disturbing to me that Corning, a company with a long and storied history with its union workers, would choose to disregard the rights of its workers and turn to illegal union busting tactics. I was told you chose to hold 18 captive audience meetings within a 30-day period and even went so far as to call the police on organizers sharing leaflets with community members. That is unacceptable.

Let's be clear. Corning is not a poor company. Last year, Corning made over \$592 million in profit and could afford to pay its wealthy shareholders more than \$1.1 billion in stock buybacks and dividends. If Corning could afford to pay you, Mr. Weeks, nearly \$21.7 million in total compensation, it can afford to treat all of its workers with the respect and dignity they deserve.

As you know, Corning has recently received more than \$500 million in federal funds, including funds for semiconductor and biomedical manufacturing. The American people do not want their

taxpayer dollars going to large corporations that abuse and disrespect their workers while spending obscene amounts of money on stock buybacks and dividends.

Mr. Weeks: Do the right thing. Respect the constitutional right of your workers to join a union. End the illegal union busting and intimidation of your workers now. Allow them to vote in free and fair union elections. And should they win, sit down at the negotiating table with the United Steelworkers and bargain in good faith toward a fair and just contract.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bernard Sanders". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator