United Mine Workers of America

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VIA ELECTRONIC AND U.S. MAIL
United States National Olympic Committee
1 Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
international@usoc.org

RE: 'NO' TO RIO TINTO'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE 2012 LONDON OLYMPIC GAMES

Dear Sir/Madam:

It is with serious concern that we have noted the involvement and association of Rio Tinto with the London Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). This association is in stark contrast to the values of the Olympic spirit in that Rio Tinto violates the Olympic spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play in its treatment of its employees, their families and communities.

Rio Tinto, besides being a corporate sponsor of the 2012 London Olympics, is providing 99% of the metal for the London Olympic medals, thereby tarnishing the medals with the company's reprehensible and abhorrent labor practices and behaviour. The gold for the medals are mined at one of Rio Tinto's mining operations in Utah, in the United States of America.

Rio Tinto presents itself to the public and investor community as a responsible and ethical mining company that is committed to sustainable development. However, its track record tells a different story. Rio Tinto has been the subject of criticism and legal action on allegations related to environmental damage, human rights abuses and labor violations in countries around the world.

Here are just a few examples of Rio Tinto's track record:

- Alleged forcible eviction of citizens, contamination of local waterways, and human rights violations at the Kelian Gold Mine in Indonesia.
- Rio Tinto executives have been found guilty of bribery and stealing commercial secrets by a Chinese court and sentenced to lengthy jail terms.
- Environmental damage and pollution at U.S. mines in Utah, Michigan and Wisconsin.
- Disregard for local communities and the environment at mines in Namibia, Madagascar and Cameroon.
- Allegations of massive environmental destruction and serious human rights violations at the Grasberg Mine in West Papua, Indonesia.
- Lockouts of workers in Boron, California and Alma, Quebec in the past two years.

The United States National Olympic Committee cannot, in clean conscience, allow this injustice perpetrated by Rio Tinto with careless and reckless abandon to go unchallenged. We call upon the

National Olympic Committee to reflect on these realities as they prepare their finest young men and women athletes to take part in this noble sporting event. We urge you to raise this important issue to the IOC - tell them to take Rio Tinto "Off the Podium" and ensure that our Olympians wear medals of pride, not medals of dishonour.

We fully support the workers in Alma, Quebec and will take necessary action to show our solidarity and commitment to ensuring a resolution is reached immediately.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Kane

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cc: Cecil E. Roberts, International President
Bob Scaramozzino, Executive Assistant to the President
Ron Airhart, Executive Assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer
ICEM
IMF