(D. Promani) DOZRK

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Dear Members of the Committee concerning Walmarts' application to become a 2006 MAY 15 AM 11 13

I work as a employee for Walmart in the overnight stocking area for almost 10 years now and I know this is not a simple request to speed up processing of credit card transactions. Previous behavior on Walmart's part especially in the last few years very much so leads me to believe this is really another way to seek to cut costs. Other businesses have to pay a 3% fee of the total credit card transactions to the card company in order to process these transactions and Walmart is simply trying to get out of doing this so it can save some more money to pay its upper management team for a job of screwing the hard workers of the company out of their benefits. Tons of customers and associates use their debit cards as credit cards in order to avoid entering their pin number in front of others in public so they end up signing the receipt. Walmart thus has to pay the 3% for these transactions rather than avoiding it through use of the pin number. Can you imagine how many employees use their debit cards as credit cards in this way to buy their lunch or other snacks at the store thus creating billions of small transactions. Don't let them have this way out to make more money for themselves.

To give examples of their behavior we use to be a store of 300 employees but due to cut backs supposed to be because no one wants to work or you can not find good help we are less than 200 now. We used to have cart pushers in the daytime and early evenings who would collect the carts but now the overnight employees do all the cart collecting for the vast majority of the day and night. The overnight workers are the backbone of the stores and are now practically doing all of the work. They zone the shelves, stock the merchandise, clean up the area, take care of the claims, do the cart runs, and prep the merchandise in the back rooms. Of course we also have to take care of the customers.

This year is the first time our store has not had a stakeholders' bonus in at least 10 years. They said we had to many accidents (10 more than allowed) and before it was not figured in. Our store manager and upper management managed to get their bonus but we did not get one. They promised us most of the year that it looked like we would get a $800 bonus for all our hard work being a skeleton crew and for making good profits this year but of course that disappeared. Why should management be rewarded when the employees who make the store happen are not?

Walmart has enough profits in its upper management especially since Sam died. He would turn over in his grave if he knew how things were going now. Please don't give them what they want. No company should have a shortcut over another which gives them unfair advantage. Walmart is destroying our small towns by putting small business out of business and shipping jobs overseas. Everything is now made somewhere else.

Sincerely,

Leo Laushman III