



PRESS RELEASE

UNION BACKS EARLY DAY MOTION

The North East's biggest general trade union today announced support for an Early Day Motion laid before Parliament by a prominent North East Labour MP.

Stephen Hepburn, the Labour MP for Jarrow has submitted an Early Day Motion (EDM) in relation to Siemens' decision to close Trench UK at its Hebburn plant.

The GMB Northern Region is fully behind the EDM which is listed as:

EDM 929

CLOSURE OF TRENCH (UK) BY SIEMENS

01.11.2010

Hepburn, Stephen

That this House notes with deep concern the actions by Siemens plc in planning to close the highly profitable longstanding British manufacturer Trench (UK) Ltd (formerly The Bushing Company) in Hebburn, Tyne and Wear, in September 2012 and taking its full order book to its plants in Germany, France and China; further notes that Trench (UK), which has 96 employees, produces state-of-the-art high voltage electrical products called bushings, which are fundamental to the supply of electricity in the UK through the National Grid network; acknowledges that Trench (UK) is a world leader in this field and that this expertise will be lost from the UK by its closure; and calls on Siemens plc to reconsider this decision.

GMB Northern Regional Organiser for Trench UK, Chris Preston said:

"Mr Hepburn's EDM is a valuable expression of support for the workforce and in particular GMB members at Trench UK in Hebburn. This is a Company that produces first class products for a demanding market with a highly skilled and valuable workforce. It is scandalous that Siemens have seemingly put their own narrow national self-interests before those of the North East".

The GMB is continuing to lobby Siemens on its decision and the Union has noted the keen expressions of support from members of Parliament on the EDM.

Mr Preston said

"EDM's are traditionally signed by back bench MPs and our GMB Members will have noted that several Labour MPs in the Northern Region have shown their solidarity with the workforce by signing the EDM in asking Siemens to reconsider their position".

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