



WORKERS: WAL-MART, AMERICA'S LARGEST EMPLOYER SHORTCHANGES WORKERS

ROLLING BACK WORKERS' RIGHTS

Wal-Mart mobilizes its incredible power to block union organizing efforts at all costs, sometimes in blatant violation of federal labor law.

In California, Wal-Mart is facing a lawsuit filed on behalf of 115,919 current and former employees who were systematically and illegally denied meal breaks while working for the company. — *Bloomberg News*, 9/19/05; *Associated Press*, 9/19/05

In 2000, Wal-Mart closed its company-wide meat-cutting division after ten butchers in Texas voted to unionize their shop. Wal-Mart closed a profitable Canadian store in 2004 after employees chose union representation. — *Associated Press*, 3/3/00; 2/09/05

Wal-Mart [reportedly] paid \$50 million to settle a lawsuit that involved 69,000 workers in Colorado who had allegedly been forced to work off the clock. In recent years, Wal-Mart has faced legal actions in over thirty states for overtime violations. — *New York Times*, 11/19/04

RHETORIC VS. REALITY

Wal-Mart CEO Lee Scott: "The truth is our wages are really competitive and they're good."
— **Lee Scott, Fox News, 1/13/05**

Wal-Mart's CEO Lee Scott took home \$17.5 million in 2004, which equals \$8,434 an hour. An average Wal-Mart associate earns just \$9.68 an hour. — *Institute for Policy Studies*

The average pay for a Wal-Mart sales associate is \$14,000 a year \$1,000 below the poverty line for a family of three.
— *New York Review of Books*, 12/16/04

On average, Costco pays its workers 65% more than Wal-Mart, yet earns more profits per employee.
— *New York Times*, 5/3/05; *Business Week*, 4/12/04



"The message to employees is clear: exercise your right to unionize and you'll end up in the unemployment line."
— **Wal-Mart Watch 2004 Annual Report**

ABOUT WAL-MART WATCH

Along with over 300 supporting organizations, Wal-Mart Watch is sponsoring Higher Expectations Week to highlight our campaign to reform Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart Watch is committed to uncovering the true impacts of Wal-Mart's business practices on our economy, environment and culture. We aim to make Wal-Mart a more responsible company by informing, motivating and supporting the work of consumers, workers, community activists and elected officials who, together, will demand reform in their hometown. Join us at www.walmartwatch.com/november



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892



DFAD
DemocracyforAmerica.com



Stronger Together

SOJOURNERS

BRAVE NEW FILMS

*A small sample of our national and local partners.

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

LEARN THE FACTS: What does Wal-Mart cost you? Visit our website at www.walmartwatch.com.

SPEAK OUT: Write your state legislator to demand Wal-Mart stops short changing America's workers.

ORGANIZE: Join the growing movement to hold Wal-Mart accountable for their greed and destructive impact on our communities, economy and culture.

