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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

CORNELE A. OVERSTREET, Regional
Director of the Twenty-Eighth Region of
the National Labor Relations Board, for
and on behalf of the National Labor
Relations Board,

Petitioner,

vs.

GUNDERSON RAIL SERVICES, LLC,
d/b/a GREENBRIER RAIL SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. CV 14-1323-TUC-FRZ

ORDER

Pending before the Court is Petitioner’s Petition for Temporary Injunction Under Section 10(j) [29 U.S.C. §160(j)] of the National Labor Relations Act (“Act” or “NLRA”).

The Respondent is Greenbrier Rail Services (“Greenbrier”) which is a unit of the Greenbrier Companies, Inc. which manufactures, repairs, and services railroad cars throughout North America and Europe; the Wheels, Repair, and Parts division repairs and maintains rail cars at approximately 30 locations in North America. One of these locations is a Tucson facility that has approximately 92 production employees which includes welders, airmen, switchmen, painters, and others. Petitioner argues that in response to these employees attempting to unionize, Greenbrier engaged in an extensive anti-union campaign that included laying off a third of its work force, closing its Tucson factory, interrogation and the impression of surveillance of employees, unlawful promises and grants of benefits,

1 unlawful solicitation of employee complaints and grievances, and threats to employees.
2 Petitioner argues that these actions illegally destroyed any past and future support for
3 unionization. While the parties have engaged in administrative litigation for many months
4 and just completed numerous evidentiary hearings as to these issues before an Administrative
5 Law Judge in February of 2014, Petitioner emphasizes that such administrative proceedings
6 are protracted and an enforceable order typically is not forthcoming for an extended period
7 of time. As such, Petitioner has filed this § 10(j) action seeking a temporary injunction from
8 the Court pending the conclusion of the litigation before the Board. For the reasons stated
9 below, Petitioner's Petition for a Temporary Injunction is granted.

10 **GENERAL STANDARD OF REVIEW**

11 "Section 10(j) permits a district court to grant relief it deems just and proper . . . To
12 decide whether granting a request for interim relief under Section 10(j) is just and proper,
13 district courts consider the traditional equitable criteria used in deciding whether to grant
14 a preliminary injunction . . . Thus, when a Regional Director seeks § 10(j) relief, he must
15 establish that he is likely to succeed on the merits, that he is likely to suffer irreparable
16 harm in the absence of preliminary relief, that the balance of equities tips in his favor, and
17 that an injunction is in the public interest . . . [S]erious questions going to the merits' and
18 a balance of hardships that tips sharply towards the [Regional Director] can support
19 issuance of a preliminary injunction, so long as the [Regional Director] also shows that
20 there is a likelihood of irreparable harm and that the injunction is in the public interest . . .
21 In all cases, however, the Regional Director must establish that irreparable harm is likely,
22 not just possible, in order to obtain a preliminary injunction . . . **[T]he court must**
23 **evaluate the traditional equitable criteria through the prism of the underlying**
24 **purpose of section 10(j), which is to protect the integrity of the collective bargaining**
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1 **process and to preserve the Board's remedial power.”** *Frankl v. HTH Corp.*, 650 F.3d
2 1334, 1355 (9th Cir. 2011)¹(emphasis added).

3 **LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS ON THE MERITS**

4 “On a § 10(j) petition, likelihood of success is a function of the probability that the
5 Board will issue an order determining that the unfair labor practices alleged by the
6 Regional Director occurred and that this Court would grant a petition enforcing that order,
7 if such enforcement were sought . . . [I]n **evaluating the likelihood of success, it is**
8 **necessary to factor in the district court's lack of jurisdiction over unfair labor**
9 **practices, and the deference accorded to NLRB determinations by the courts of**
10 **appeals . . . It is, after all, the Board and not the courts, which has primary**
11 **responsibility for declaring federal labor policy . . . Additionally, and for similar**
12 **reasons, even on an issue of law, the district court should be hospitable to the views**
13 **of the General Counsel, however novel . . . Given these considerations . . . the**
14 **regional director in a § 10(j) proceeding can make a threshold showing of likelihood**
15 **of success by producing some evidence to support the unfair labor practice charge,**
16 **together with an arguable legal theory . . .** But if the Director does not show that
17 success is likely, and instead shows only that there are serious questions going to the
18 merits, then he must show that the balance of hardships tilts sharply in his favor, as well
19 as showing that there is irreparable harm and that the injunction is in the public interest”
20 *Frankl*, 650 F.3d at 1355-56 (emphasis added).

21 **§8(a)(3) Allegations as to the November 2012 Layoffs**

22 On 11/12/12, Greenbrier laid off approximately a third of its work force. Petitioner
23 argues that this violated §8(a)(3) of the Act as it was motivated by anti-union animus.
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¹Unless otherwise noted, internal quotes and citations have been omitted in relation to quoted
28 authority throughout this Order.

1 “Section 8(a)(3) of the NLRA prohibits an employer from discriminating against
2 employees in regard to hire or tenure of employment . . . to discourage membership in any
3 labor organization . . . [I]t is well-established that an employer violates Section 8(a)(3) of
4 the NLRA where it close[s] a part of [its] operations, discharge[s] the employees
5 involved, and subcontract[s] the work for anti-Union purposes.” *Healthcare Employees*
6 *Union, Local 399, Affiliated With Service Employees Intern. Union, AFL-CIO v. N.L.R.B.*,
7 463 F.3d 909, 918 (9th Cir. 2006); *see also Nabors Alaska Drilling, Inc. v. N.L.R.B.*, 190
8 F.3d 1008, 114 (9th Cir. 1999)(“An employer commits an unfair labor practice in violation
9 of § 8(a)(1) & (3) if it discharges an employee because of the employee's union
10 activity.”).

11
12 In a Section 8(a)(3) case, the Board uses the burden-shifting scheme set forth in *Wright*
13 *Line* to determine whether an employer was motivated by anti-union animus. *See* 251
14 N.L.R.B. 1083, 1089 (1980); *NLRB v. Transp. Mgmt. Corp.*, 462 U.S. 393, 399-403 . . .
15 (1983) (upholding *Wright Line* burden shifting scheme under the NLRA). Under *Wright*
16 *Line*, Petitioner must show that employees were engaged in union activities, Respondent
17 knew of these activities, and harbored the requisite anti-union animus. *Praxair*
18 *Distribution, Inc.*, 357 NLRB No. 91 slip op. at 1 fn. 2 (2011), 2011 WL 4406047, 1.
19 "Once this is established, the burden will shift to the employer to demonstrate the same
20 action would have taken place even in the absence of the protected conduct." *Aguayo v.*
21 *Quadrtech Corp.*, 129 F.Supp.2d 1273, 1277 (C.D. Cal. 2000). An employer must not
22 only establish a legitimate reason for its actions, but must persuade by a preponderance of
23 the evidence, that it would have taken the same actions even in the absence of the
24 protected activity. *Peter Vitalie Co., Inc.*, 310 NLRB 865, 871 (1993); *Healthcare*
25 *Employees Union, Local 399 v. NLRB*, 463 F.3d 909, 923 (9th Cir. 2006). The
26 Petitioner's overall burden of persuasion is identical to its initial burden under *Wright*
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1 *Line. Manno Electric, Inc.*, 321 NLRB 278, 280 n. 12 (1996), enf'd mem., 127 F.3d 34
2 (5th Cir. 1997).

3 “While the General Counsel retains the ultimate burden of persuasion, once the
4 General Counsel establishes that anti-union animus was a motivating factor, the employer
5 bears the burden of establishing any affirmative defense such as the inevitability of
6 termination.” *Healthcare Employees Union, Local 399, Affiliated With Service*
7 *Employees Intern. Union, AFL-CIO*, 463 F.3d at 919. “An employer will seldom admit
8 that it was motivated by anti-union animus when it made its adverse employment decision
9 . . . Actual motive, a state of mind, being the question, it is seldom that direct evidence
10 will be available that is not also self-serving . . . For that reason, circumstantial evidence
11 is sufficient to establish anti-union motive . . . Motive is a question of fact, and the NLRB
12 may rely on both direct and circumstantial evidence to establish an employer's motive,
13 considering such factors as the employer's knowledge of the employee's union activities,
14 the employer's hostility toward the union, and the timing of the employer's action . . . To
15 determine motive, the Board may rely on indirect evidence and inferences reasonably
16 drawn from the totality of the circumstances.” *Id.* A discriminatory motive may be shown
17 by: (1) the timing; (2) the presence of other unfair labor practices; (3) statements and
18 actions showing the employer's general and specific animus; (4) disparate treatment; (5)
19 departure from past practice; (6) failing to adequately investigate whether the alleged
20 misconduct occurred; and (7) evidence demonstrating that an employer's proffered
21 explanation for the adverse action is a pretext. *See, e.g., Golden Day Schools v. NLRB*,
22 644 F.2d 834, 838 (9th Cir. 1981); *NLRB v. Rain-Ware, Inc.*, 732 F.2d 1349, 1354 (7th
23 Cir. 1984); *Mid-Mountain Foods, Inc.*, 332 NLRB 251, 251 n. 2, 260 (2000); *NLRB v.*
24 *Vemco, Inc.*, 989 F.2d 1468, 1473-74 (6th Cir. 1993); *Affiliated Foods, Inc.*, 328 NLRB
25 1107, 1107 (1999); *Naomi Knitting Plant*, 328 NLRB 1279, 1283 (1999); *JAMCO*, 294
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1 NLRB 896, 905 (1989), aff'd mem., 927 F.2d 614 (11th Cir. 1991), cert. denied, 502 U.S.
2 814 (1991); *W.W. Grainger, Inc., v. NLRB*, 582 F.2d 1118, 1121 (7th Cir. 1978); *Wright*
3 *Line*, 251 NLRB at 1089; *Roadway Express*, 327 NLRB at 26. In addition, the "Board
4 has inferred unlawful motive where the employer's action is baseless, unreasonable, or so
5 contrived as to raise a presumption of unlawful motive." *J.S. Troup Elec.*, 344 NLRB
6 1009, 1015 (2005); *see also Shattuck Denn Mining Corp. v. NLRB*, 362 F.2d 466, 470
7 (9th Cir. 1966)(an employer's "self-serving declaration [as to motive] is not conclusive;
8 [one] may infer motive from the total circumstances . . ."; where it is found that the
9 employer's "stated motive for a discharge is false, [one] can infer that there is another
10 motive. More than that, one can infer that the motive is one that the employer desires to
11 conceal-an unlawful motive, at least where . . . the surrounding facts tend to reinforce that
12 inference.").

14 Petitioner has met his burden to show that the 11/12/12 layoff was motivated by
15 anti-union animus. Greenbrier's Tucson employees had been attempting to unionize for
16 an extended period of time. For example, in the fall of 2011, employees sought
17 representation from the United Transport Union ("UTU"). Employees Rogelio Martinez
18 and Jorge Martinez were actively involved in attempting to get their coworkers to vote for
19 the UTU. Although it was common for employees to solicit one another during working
20 hours (i.e, kids' fundraisers-band, Girl Scouts), talk about non-work related matters
21 (family, kids, sports, politics), and employees were not disciplined for such action, both
22 Rogelio and Jorge both received written discipline for soliciting coworkers about the
23 UTU during work hours. Another employee was told by his supervisor to stay away from
24 two employees involved with the Union, and that Greenbrier was going to get rid of those
25 two employees. Prior to the 10/28/11 UTU election among employees, Greenbrier
26 management held meetings with employees, expressed their opposition to the UTU, and
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1 stated that unionization could result in closure of the Tucson plant, layoffs, and transfer of
2 employees to other states. The UTU lost the 10/28/11 election by 3 votes. Pursuant to
3 governing law, another union election could not be held for a year.

4 In October of 2012, after the narrow 10/28/11 election loss, management was well
5 aware that employees could start organizing another union campaign as the one-year
6 expiration approached and expected such action. Employees such as Jorge Martinez,
7 Murgia, and Ramos led the unionization efforts in the fall of 2012. These employees
8 initially met with the United Food and Commercial Workers Union ("UFCW") on
9 10/24/12 regarding representation, and passed out and collected UFCW authorization
10 cards at the Tucson plant for their coworkers for a couple of days after the 10/24/12
11 meeting. In this short time, they collected 48 cards which was already a majority of the
12 92 production employees in Tucson. During the time frame that Martinez was in the
13 process of passing out and collecting UFCW cards, he went to the front-shop of the plant
14 for a work assignment, and while there, a supervisor (front-shop Foreman Martin Torres)
15 asked if it was true that the union was coming around again; Martinez stated that he did
16 not know, asked Torres why, to which Torres responded that rumors had been heard.
17

18 In the beginning of November, Martinez and his colleagues decided that the Sheet
19 Metal Workers union ("SMW") would better represent their interests as they had more
20 experience in their field; as such, they decided to seek representation from the SMW
21 instead of the UFCW. They met with the SMW on 11/5/12, and began passing out and
22 collecting SMW authorization cards from their co-workers the next day at the Tucson
23 plant. Martinez told his co-workers to read the cards and sign it if they agreed; he
24 witnessed their signatures and placed his initials on them. The signed authorization cards
25 state in part: "I, the undersigned, hereby authorize the SHEET METAL WORKERS
26 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION . . . to represent me for purposes of Collective
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1 Bargaining, and in my behalf, to negotiate and conclude all agreements as to hours of
2 labor, wages, and other conditions of employment." When passing out cards, Ramos
3 explained to his co-workers that by signing the card they agreed to be represented by the
4 Union; likewise, Murgia told his co-workers to read the card carefully and sign it if they
5 agreed. There was testimony that employees believed that by signing the cards, the Union
6 would represent them. By 11/8/12, Martinez and his colleagues had already collected 50
7 SMW authorization cards which again was a majority of the 92 production employees in
8 Tucson.
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10 On 10/31/12, Al Lave (Vice President of Human Resources) led a meeting with
11 Tucson management (shop managers, supervisors, and leadmen along with Plant Manager
12 Lex Morrison and Human Resources representative Margaret Madrigal) regarding
13 renewed unionization efforts among employees in Tucson. Lave instructed management
14 to monitor their respective work areas and bring any union materials they find to the plant
15 manager. On the day of the layoffs, less than two weeks after this management meeting
16 regarding unionization, Tucson Foreman Martin Torres stated to one of the employees
17 that was terminated (Guillermo Murgia) that he thought the layoffs were because of the
18 Union. One of the leads in the meeting was Armando Lopez; Lopez was a friend of the
19 primary union organizer among employees (Jorge Martinez), and Martinez would keep
20 Lopez updated on the union drive such as how many union authorization cards were
21 collected. Likewise, on a daily basis in the months before the November 2012 layoff,
22 Gutierrez would talk about unionization issues with leads Luis Lopez and Ismael Lopez;
23 this group often carpooled to work together.
24

25 On 11/12/12, Greenbrier laid off 28 employees from the Tucson plant which
26 constituted about a third of the work force. The close timing between the layoff and the
27 employees' unionization efforts and collection of a majority number of union
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1 authorization cards supports a finding of Greenbrier's anti-union animus. *See Golden Day*
2 *Schools, Inc. v. NLRB*, 644 F.2d 834, 838 (9th Cir. 1981) (timing of discharge was indicia
3 of discriminatory motive); *Healthcare Employees Local 399 v. NLRB*, 463 F.3d 909, 920
4 (9th Cir. 2006) (timing of employer's subcontracting decision, between filing of election
5 petition and date of election, made inference of anti-union motive "stunningly obvious").
6 Likewise, Greenbrier's anti-union animus is also shown through the various violations of
7 the Act discussed throughout this Order. Petitioner has met its burden to show that
8 anti-union animus was a motivating factor in laying off a third of its work force. The
9 burden shifts to Respondent to show that the same action would have been taken even in
10 the absence of the renewed unionization efforts.
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12 In response, Greenbrier primarily argues that the 11/12/12 layoffs occurred solely for
13 legitimate economic considerations. For example, Greenbrier argues that the Tucson
14 plant had been extremely inefficient since it unexpectedly lost a large number of
15 experienced employees and supervisors in an IRS employee false identification audit in
16 2011. Since that time, less experienced workers were inefficient inasmuch as they
17 physically worked and were paid by Greenbrier for many more hours than they could bill
18 their customers (i.e., most repair jobs had a maximum number hours that could be billed
19 to the customer, but employees were often exceeding these maximum hours, were still
20 paid by Greenbrier for the time they were physically on duty at the plant, but the extra
21 costs to Greenbrier could not be passed on to the customer receiving the repairs). As
22 such, in light of these extreme inefficiencies, the Tucson plant started losing money,
23 attempted to hire and train more workers to increase efficiency to no avail, lost more
24 money as they worked longer due to these inefficiencies, and Greenbrier ultimately lost
25 approximately \$250,000 in October of 2012. These economic issues were the sole basis
26 for ultimately deciding to lay off Tucson employees on 11/12/12.
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1 Petitioner argues that Respondent's position is pretext, and points to numerous factors
2 that call its justification into doubt. Petitioner emphasizes that for many months, and
3 even years, the Tucson shop lost money in some months and made a profit some months.
4 Then after the unionization efforts began resurfacing in October and November of 2012,
5 Greenbrier abruptly decided to lay off a third of their Tucson work force. Furthermore,
6 less than two months before the layoffs, upper management was criticizing Tucson
7 management and demanding an explanation for failing to hire enough workers to meet
8 hiring goals for Tucson (the Tucson shop was supposed to expand to 95 employees, but
9 only had 73 employees in August of 2012). In the first weeks of November, Greenbrier
10 was still trying to hire welders in Tucson. As to the month of October, there were
11 numerous one-time expenses in Tucson that contributed to the larger losses such as the
12 death of an employee causing the factory to close, and the introduction of a new
13 accounting system ("Syspro") which resulted in numerous inaccuracies in financial
14 statements in the months leading up to the November layoffs. In addition, there were two
15 other Greenbrier locations (Dothan and Atchison) that had large losses as of 11/1/12, but
16 there was no sudden decision to layoff a third of those workforces in contrast to Tucson.
17

18 There also is a substantial amount of conflicting and vague testimony from
19 management relating to the November layoffs. *See Maywood, Inc.*, 251 NLRB 979,
20 993-994 (1980) (inconsistent testimony from company witnesses as to who made decision
21 to discharge employee and the reason for the discharge is evidence of pretext to hide the
22 real reason, advocacy for the union); *Cf. Planned Building Services, Inc.*, 347 NLRB 670,
23 713-15 (2006) (in a refusal-to-hire case, inconsistent testimony as to who made decision
24 to not hire employees supports a finding of pretext); *Jennings & Webb, Inc.*, 288 NLRB
25 682, 687-88 (1988), *enf'd.*, 875 F.2d 315 (4th Cir. 1989) (Table) (conflicting and
26 inconsistent testimony from employer's witnesses, including as to when the decision to
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1 terminate employee was made, supports a finding of discriminatory intent); *Black*
2 *Entertainment Television, Inc.*, 324 NLRB 1161, 1161 (1997)("The Board has long
3 expressed the view that when an employer vacillates in offering a rational and consistent
4 account of its actions, an inference may be drawn that the real reason for its conduct is not
5 among those asserted."). For example, Mike Torra from upper management (who gave
6 final approval for the layoffs) could not recall when the need for a layoff was first
7 discussed, who raised the topic, who discussed the topic, and stated that the need for the
8 layoff was generally a process issue. While Torra gave final approval, regional managers
9 Kevin Stewart and Juan Maciel were the ones who decided that there needed to be a
10 layoff in Tucson, and were responsible for deciding how many people and who should be
11 laid off. Stewart stated that he raised the need for layoffs in late October in a conference
12 call, and that he was directed by his superiors to come up with a plan (along with Maciel)
13 for fixing the Tucson situation, and to be ready to present the plan at Greenbrier's annual
14 managers' conference in Chicago from 11/5/12 to 11/7/12. He stated that he consulted
15 with Maciel prior to the conference, and they presented a plan during the conference. In
16 contrast, Maciel (who was the joint decision maker with Stewart regarding the Tucson
17 layoffs), stated that he learned about the layoffs for the first time while he was at the
18 conference, and he discussed the layoff plan with Stewart after the conference started. As
19 to choosing what employees to layoff, the factors they used in making their decisions
20 were skill and ability, productivity, safety record, cross-training, and seniority. However,
21 they ultimately never reviewed any performance reviews, attendance records, or other
22 documents in deciding who they laid off. Stewart also testified that he was not familiar
23 enough with the Tucson employees to place a name with a face, so he relied on Maciel to
24 tell him names of who to retain and who to layoff. However, Maciel had not worked in
25 Tucson for over 12 years and was brought in to help deal with the layoffs. Maciel, in
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1 turn, stated that he relied in part on Tucson production manager Freddy Valdez as to who
2 to layoff or retain as he was very familiar with the Tucson employees. However, Valdez
3 stated that nobody spoke to him about who to retain or layoff prior to the actual layoffs on
4 11/12/12, and the first time he learned of the layoffs was when they announced the layoffs
5 to the entire plant on 11/12/12. There is also evidence that there were employees that
6 were laid off who had higher performance evaluations than some of those retained.

7
8 In further support of the finding that Greenbrier's justification is pretext, Petitioner
9 emphasizes that Greenbrier inexplicably decided in January of 2013 to start rehiring the
10 employees they just laid off. The reasons for the layoff included skill, ability, and
11 productivity for the purpose of having more efficient employees to increase Greenbrier's
12 profits in Tucson. However, a couple of months later, Greenbrier decided to start rehiring
13 these same former employees. The employees that were just laid off were required to
14 submit a new employment application, interview with the new plant manager (Eric
15 Valenzuela), and management and human resources were directed to keep track of such
16 things as their attitudes, and whether they would present further issues to Greenbrier.
17 Valenzuela mentioned during one such interview that the unionization efforts "may or
18 may not have" contributed to the layoffs, and that employees wasted time at work related
19 to union activities that made the efficiency and economic situation in Tucson worse.
20 Both Stewart and Maciel decided in mid-January of 2013 to start rehiring laid off
21 employees because labor utilization rates (measuring employee efficiency) were
22 acceptable. Stewart stated that labor utilization rates between 60-80% were acceptable,
23 but the rates in December 2012, January 2013, and February 2013 were all below 60%,
24 and rates were at 46% in January 2013 when the decision was made to start rehiring
25 people. In rehiring former employees, Stewart and Maciel focused on the particular skill
26 sets needed, and again stated they relied in part on feedback from Tucson production
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1 manager Freddy Valdez in determining who to rehire. However, Valdez said he was
2 never consulted about who should be rehired, and was only told after the fact that
3 Greenbrier was recalling employees.

4 Based on the record before the Court, Petitioner has shown that he is likely to prevail
5 on his position regarding the §8(a)(3) claims pertaining to the 11/12/12 layoffs.

6 **§8(a)(3) Allegations Pertaining to Closure of the Tucson Shop**

7 After the layoffs in November of 2012, the decision to rehire employees in January of
8 2013, and the rehiring of numerous laid off employees for the first several months of
9 2013, Greenbrier decided in August of 2013 that the Tucson shop had to be closed with
10 operations winding down for several months thereafter. Like the layoffs, Petitioner
11 argues that Greenbrier was motivated by anti-union animus to close the facility to
12 dissuade union support throughout its organization.

13 The *Wright Line* burden-shifting standard also applies to the evaluation of whether the
14 employer's decision to close a facility and move the work to another facility was
15 motivated by anti-union animus. *See Aguayo ex rel. N.L.R.B. v. Quadrtech Corp.*, 129
16 F.Supp.2d 1273, 1277 (C.D. Cal. 2000); *see also Healthcare Employees Union, Local*
17 *399, Affiliated With Service Employees Intern. Union, AFL-CIO* ., 463 F.3d at 918
18 (“Section 8(a)(3) of the NLRA prohibits an employer from discriminating against
19 employees in regard to hire or tenure of employment . . . to discourage membership in any
20 labor organization.”).

21 The record reflects that Greenbrier was aware of the employees unionizing activities
22 (which culminated in the July 2013 elections as to the SMW union), and that Greenbrier
23 had an anti-union animus. Like the layoffs, the timing of the decision to close the Tucson
24 plant in August of 2013 supports an anti-union motive. Likewise, Greenbrier's anti-union
25 animus is also shown through the various violations of the Act discussed throughout this
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1 Order. In May of 2013, Greenbrier received notice that the upcoming SMW union
2 election was going to proceed. Later, in July of 2013², only a couple of weeks after the
3 July 2013 election whereby the union was again defeated (by a wide margin this time),
4 Greenbrier proposed a large rate increase of approximately 18% to its largest Tucson
5 customer (TTX-which accounted for approximately 70-80% of the business in Tucson).
6 TTX, however, had a very large, nationwide fleet of railcars that could receive the same
7 repairs at other Greenbrier facilities in Mira Loma, California and San Antonio, Texas at
8 much lower rates thereby saving TTX a substantial amount of money. Thus, TTX
9 rejected Greenbrier's large rate increase for Tucson, stopped sending work to Tucson, and
10 redirected their business to Mira Loma and San Antonio. In response, Greenbrier
11 immediately decided in August of 2013 to close the Tucson facility. As Petitioner has
12 met its initial burden to show that anti-union animus motivated the closure, the burden
13 shifts to Greenbrier to show that it would have closed the facility regardless of the
14 unionization activities.
15

16 Greenbrier argues that the closure of the Tucson facility was motivated by purely
17 economic reasons based on the fact that Tucson's largest customer independently decided
18 to stop sending work to Tucson. Without their largest customer, there was simply no way
19 that the Tucson plant could survive. Furthermore, Greenbrier argues that it was receiving
20 substantial pressure from Wall Street to increase profits; this necessitated the new rate
21 proposal to TRX which did increase rates on the current volume of TRX work sent to
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23 ²Shortly before the July 2013 election, management held captive-audience meetings with
24 Tucson employees in June and July of 2013 where threats regarding their job security were made.
25 For example, management told employees that their single largest customer (TTX) was adverse to
26 unions, sends railcars to Tucson because its non-union, that there was a risk that TTX would stop
27 sending railcars to Tucson if it unionized, that the Tucson shop could close due to the problems
28 caused by unions especially in light of Tucson's recent problems, and that Greenbrier was being
forced to spend large amounts of money on attorneys' fees defending against the Union's unfair labor
practice allegations at a time when the Tucson shop is struggling to make a profit to remain open.

1 Tucson, but gradually decreased rates if TRX agreed to send more volume of work to
2 Tucson. Greenbrier argues that if TRX agreed to send a greater volume of work to
3 Tucson, it would have benefitted both Greenbrier and TRX. However, TRX
4 independently rejected the proposal and decided to stop sending work to Tucson which
5 forced the closure of the plant due to lack of work.

6 Petitioner argues that the evidence reflects that Greenbrier's justification is a pretext.
7 Prior to the 7/22/13 meeting with TRX proposing increased rates, Tucson was profitable
8 every month in 2013. In the Company-wide 2013 Greenbrier "Rationalization Plan"
9 documents seeking to improve its many business entities around the country and improve
10 profits in 2013, Tucson was consistently labeled as a plant to "fix" throughout April,
11 May, and June. In contrast, the San Antonio plant was consistently labeled as a plant to
12 "close." In July, near the time that Greenbrier received notice from the NLRB regarding a
13 hearing as to unfair labor practice charges related to the July election, the July Greenbrier
14 Rationalization Plan mentioned unionization issues; Plans from previous months did not
15 mention unionization. In addition, the July Plan also stated that without a new rate
16 structure with TRX, the Tucson plant would likely close by the end of the year; Plans
17 from previous months never tied the longevity of the Tucson plant to a new rate structure
18 with TRX. At the 7/22/13 meeting with TRX regarding the rate changes, upper
19 management from Greenbrier (including President William Glenn) outlined their position
20 which included a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation stated that they were under
21 pressure to fix, close, or sell underperforming Greenbrier entities and to otherwise
22 increase profits. The presentation also went on to outline numerous problems in Tucson
23 including a history of poor management, inefficiency, longer than expected repair times,
24 and then proposed a large rate increase on the current volume of work for TRX, and
25 offered to drop prices only if TRX increased the volume of work. In response to this
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1 presentation, TRX declined to increase the volume of work to Tucson, and rejected the
2 large rate increase. It also opted to have its railcars that were going to Tucson (which
3 largely originated out of California which TRX discovered only after the Greenbrier
4 presentation) rerouted to other Greenbrier facilities in Mira Loma, California and San
5 Antonio, Texas. These two alternative Greenbrier facilities had much lower rates for the
6 same Greenbrier repairs on the equivalent volume of work that TRX had previously sent
7 to Tucson. Based on the same volume of TRX work going to Tucson, TRX would pay an
8 extra \$785,000 a year based on the new Tucson rates. However, sending the same
9 volume of work to Mira Loma would save two million dollars a year, and would save one
10 million dollars a year if sent to San Antonio. Upon receiving notice of TRX's decision in
11 late August of 2013, Greenbrier immediately decided to close the Tucson facility without
12 exploring other business options. There was testimony that other companies such as
13 Brandt or Pacer were willing to send 40 to 50 railcars to Tucson for maintenance and
14 repair within a couple of weeks to provide more business, but Greenbrier did not pursue
15 these options. When a TRX executive delivered the news to Greenbrier President
16 William Glenn that TTX would no longer send work to Tucson and would instead be
17 sending that work to Mira Loma and San Antonio, President Glenn "appreciated [TTX]
18 finding a solution that enables Greenbrier to close Tucson."
19

20
21 Based on the record before the Court, Petitioner has shown a likelihood of success as
22 to his §8(a)(3) claims regarding the closure of the Tucson plant.³

23
24 ³The *Wright Line* burden-shifting standard likewise applies to the evaluation of whether the
25 employer violated §8(a)(4) of the NLRA pertaining to whether the closure of the Tucson shop was
26 motivated by anti-union animus. *See NLRB v. Overseas Motor, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 570, 571 (6th Cir.
27 1983); *American Gardens Mgt. Co.*, 338 NLRB 644, 645 (2002); *see also* §8(a)(4) of the NLRA [29
28 U.S.C. §158(a)(4)]("It shall be an unfair labor practice for an employer . . . to discharge or otherwise
discriminate against an employee because he has filed charges or given testimony under this
subchapter."). For the reasons discussed in the text, Petitioner has shown a likelihood of success as
to the §8(a)(4) claims as to the closure of the Tucson plant.

1 **Termination of Juan Silva**

2 Under the *Wright Line* burden-shifting standard, Petitioner has also shown a likelihood
3 of success as to the allegation that employee Juan Silva was unlawfully fired in retaliation
4 for his Union activities. See *Masland Industries*, 311 NLRB 184, 197 (1993); *NLRB v.*
5 *Rain-Ware, Inc.*, 732 F.2d 1349, 1354 (7th Cir. 1984).

6 Silva strongly supported unionization, and constantly talked about the Union with
7 Tucson leadmen such as Ismael Lopez. On 5/30/13, Ismael Lopez observed Silva
8 working with a piece of equipment (an EOCC unit), told him that he failed to follow
9 required safety procedures as to the unit, and this was reported to the plant manager who
10 fired Lopez the same day. Greenbrier had knowledge that Silva supported the Union, and
11 the anti-union animus is supported by the various violations of the Act discussed herein.
12 Greenbrier argues that Silva was fired solely for safety reasons. For example, Silva had
13 received several recent trainings on safety procedures for the EOCC unit, expressed his
14 disagreement with the procedures, and shortly thereafter intentionally (unlike other
15 employees who engaged in similar conduct) violated such procedures which led to his
16 firing. However, as Petitioner argues, there is evidence that Silva was working alongside
17 his co-worker (Brian Skaggs) that day, and that Skaggs was the one that was actually
18 responsible for carrying out the safety procedures as to the EOCC unit. However, Skaggs
19 was only suspended for his safety violation, while Silva was terminated. In addition,
20 another employee that had violated safety procedures as to the EOCC only received a
21 written warning. Silva was the only employee in Tucson fired for violating these
22 procedures. Petitioner has shown a likelihood of success that Greenbrier violated the Act
23 by firing Silva in retaliation for his Union activities.
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1 **§8(a)(1) Allegations**

2 In the midst of the layoffs and plant closure, Petitioner also argues that Greenbrier
3 engaged in numerous §8(a)(1) violations as part of its anti-union campaign which also
4 had the effect of dissuading unionization activity in this case.

5 Section 8(a)(1) of the NLRA [29 U.S.C. §158(a)(1)] states that it “shall be an unfair
6 labor practice for an employer . . . to interfere with, restrain, or coerce employees in the
7 exercise of the rights guaranteed in section 157 of this title.” Section 7 of the NLRA [29
8 U.S.C. §157] states: “Employees shall have the right to self-organization, to form, join, or
9 assist labor organizations, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own
10 choosing, and to engage in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective
11 bargaining or other mutual aid or protection . . .” *See also In re American Tissue Corp.*,
12 336 NLRB 435, 441 (2001)(“Section 8(a)(1) of the Act provides that it shall be an unfair
13 labor practice for an employer to interfere with, restrain, or coerce employees in the
14 exercise of their statutory right to engage in, or restrain from engaging in concerted
15 activity.”).

16
17 “It is well settled that the test of interference, restraint, and coercion under Section
18 8(a)(1) of the Act does not turn on the employer's motive or on whether the coercion
19 succeeded or failed. The test is whether the employer engaged in conduct, which, it may
20 reasonably be said, tends to interfere with the free exercise of employee rights under the
21 Act . . . In making the requisite determination, the Board considers the total context in
22 which the challenged conduct occurs and is justified in viewing the issue from the
23 standpoint of its impact on the employees.” *Id.* at 441-42. “However, this provision is
24 modified by Section 8(c) of the Act, which defines and implements the first amendment
25 right of free speech in the context of labor relations . . . Section 8(c) permits employers to
26 express ‘any views, arguments or opinions’ concerning union representation without
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1 running afoul of Section 8(a)(1) of the Act if the expression ‘contains no threat of reprisal
2 or force or promise of benefit.’ . . . The employer is also free to express opinion or make
3 predictions, reasonably based in fact, about the possible effects of unionization on its
4 company . . . In determining whether questioned statements are permissible under Section
5 8(c), the statements must be considered in the context in which they were made and in
6 view of the totality of the employer's conduct . . . Also recognized must be the
7 economically dependent relationship of the employees to the employer and the necessary
8 tendency of the former, because of the relationship, to pick up intended implications of
9 the latter that might be more readily dismissed by a more disinterested ear.” *Id* at 442.

10
11 **§8(a)(1): Interrogation and the Impression of Surveillance**

12 Petitioner argues that Greenbrier unlawfully interrogated and created an impression of
13 surveillance when employee Jorge Martinez was confronted by a supervisor and asked
14 questions about unionization in October of 2012.

15 The totality of the circumstances are weighed in determining whether management’s
16 questioning of an employee is coercive in violation §8(a)(1); among the factors
17 considered are: (1) The background, i.e., is there a history of employer hostility and
18 discrimination? (2) The nature of the information sought, e.g., did the interrogator appear
19 to be seeking information on which to base taking action against individual employees?
20 (3) The identity of the questioner, i.e., how high was he in the company hierarchy? (4)
21 Place and method of interrogation, e.g., was employee called from work to the boss's
22 office? Was there an atmosphere of unnatural formality? (5) Truthfulness of the reply.”
23 *See Westwood Health Care Center*, 330 NLRB 935, 939 (2000). “These and other
24 relevant factors are not to be mechanically applied in each case . . . [D]etermining
25 whether employee questioning violates the Act does not require strict evaluation of each
26 factor; instead, [t]he flexibility and deliberately broad focus of this test make clear that
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1 [these] criteria are not prerequisites to a finding of coercive questioning, but rather useful
2 indicia that serve as a starting point for assessing the totality of the circumstances . . . In
3 the final analysis, our task is to determine whether under all the circumstances the
4 questioning at issue would reasonably tend to coerce the employee at whom it is directed
5 so that he or she would feel restrained from exercising rights protected by Section 7 of the
6 Act.” *Id.* at 939-40.

7
8 “Employer surveillance or creation of an impression of surveillance constitutes
9 unlawful interference with Section 7 rights because employees should feel free to
10 participate in union activity without the fear that members of management are peering
11 over their shoulders . . . An employer creates an impression of surveillance when the
12 employee would reasonably assume from the [employer's] statement that [his] union
13 activities had been placed under surveillance . . . In general, the Board finds that this test
14 has been met when an employer reveals specific information about a union activity that is
15 not generally known, and does not reveal its source. Under such circumstances,
16 employees may reasonably conclude that the information was obtained through employer
17 monitoring.” *New Vista Nursing and Rehabilitation, LLC*, 358 NLRB No. 55 slip op.
18 (2012), 2012 WL 2561650 *15; *see also Heartshare Human Services of New York*, 339
19 NLRB 842, 844 (2003)(“In order to establish an impression of surveillance violation,
20 [Petitioner] bears the burden of proving that the employees would reasonably assume
21 from the statement in question that their union activities had been placed under
22 surveillance.”); *Flexsteel Industries*, 311 NLRB 257, 257 (1993)(“The idea behind
23 finding an impression of surveillance as a violation of Section 8(a)(1) of the Act is that
24 employees should be free to participate in union organizing campaigns without the fear
25 that members of management are peering over their shoulders, taking note of who is
26 involved in union activities, and in what particular ways. We have never required . . .
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1 evidence that management actually saw or knew of an employee's union activity for a
2 fact, nor do we require evidence that the employee intended his involvement to be covert
3 or that management is actively engaged in spying or surveillance. Rather, an employer
4 creates an impression of surveillance by indicating that it is closely monitoring the degree
5 of an employee's union involvement.”).

6 As referenced above, shortly before the layoffs in November of 2012, employee Jorge
7 Martinez (who was leading unionization efforts) was distributing and collecting UFCW
8 cards from coworkers at the Tucson plant. During this time frame, when Martinez went
9 to the front-shop to request work, Tucson front-shop Foreman Martin Torres asked him if
10 it was true that the "union was coming around again." Martinez stated that he didn't
11 know, and asked why he was inquiring. Torres responded that there were "rumors . . .
12 that had been heard." Petitioner argues that this questioning of Martinez violated section
13 8(a)(1).
14

15 As Petitioner emphasizes, Torres was the foreman of the front-shop and only one of
16 four foremen at the facility. He directly asked Martinez about unionization at a time
17 when Martinez was spearheading unionization efforts and passing out and collecting
18 union cards. Also, although Martinez only went to the front shop to request work, Torres
19 took that opportunity to question him about the union. The coercive nature of the
20 questioning is reflected by Martinez's response that "he didn't know" whether the union
21 was coming around again even though Martinez was a lead organizer who was
22 distributing and collecting union authorization cards. Furthermore, as referenced earlier,
23 Martinez had been disciplined by Greenbrier in relation to soliciting in support of the
24 2011 union campaign even though it was common for employees to solicit and talk to
25 coworkers about non-work issues during work time, and they were not disciplined.
26 Petitioner has shown a likelihood of success as to its allegation that Martinez was
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1 interrogated in violation of §8(a)(1). In addition, Petitioner has also shown a likelihood
2 of success that this same conduct created an unlawful impression of surveillance in
3 violation of §8(a)(1).

4 **§8(a)(1): Surveillance of Union Activity**

5 In April of 2013, after the layoffs and prior to the new election and plant closure,
6 Petitioner argues that plant manager Eric Valenzuela engaged in unlawful surveillance in
7 violation of §8(a)(1) when he approached Union representatives' handbilling employees
8 as they were arriving to work; he stayed in the area until they left the property and
9 observed employees talking to Union representatives and taking flyers. Petitioner cites
10 one case in support of its position on these issues. *See DHL Express, Inc.*, 355 NLRB
11 680, 680 n.2 (2010)(employer “engaged in unlawful surveillance by standing among or
12 near [union] handbillers while police investigated the presence of nonemployee union
13 agents on the edge of the [employer’s] premises . . . There is no evidence of disruptive
14 behavior by the handbillers, or that they posed any threat to the police investigation . . .
15 [T]he prolonged presence of the [employer] among the handbillers was unusual, out of
16 the ordinary, and unconnected to [any] legitimate concerns of the [employer].”). Unlike
17 *DHL Express, Inc.*, based on the record cited by the parties, it appears that the handbillers
18 in this case were on Greenbrier's property, were potentially causing a safety hazard, and
19 management approached them for a brief period regarding this issue. The handbillers
20 were passing out flyers around four in the morning when it was very dark, they were
21 handing out the flyers as employees were driving into the Greenbrier parking lot causing
22 a traffic jam, and there were some near misses between the handbillers and the cars
23 arriving due to lighting conditions. As such, management approached the handbillers for
24 a brief period to discuss the safety problem and to ask them to leave; the incident was
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1 later reported to the police. Petitioner has not shown a likelihood of success as to this
2 issue.

3 **§8(a)(1): Promises and Grants of Benefits**

4 Petitioner argues that Greenbrier granted certain benefits to employees which had the
5 effect of dissuading union activity in violation of the Act.

6 “The conferral of employee benefits while a representation election is pending, for the
7 purpose of inducing employees to vote against the union, [interferes with] the protected
8 right to organize [under §8(a)(1) of the NLRA]. *N. L. R. B. v. Exchange Parts Co.*, 375
9 U.S. 405, 459 (1964). “The broad purpose of s 8(a)(1) is to establish the right of
10 employees to organize for mutual aid without employer interference . . . [I]t prohibits not
11 only intrusive threats and promises but also conduct immediately favorable to employees
12 which is undertaken with the express purpose of impinging upon their freedom of choice
13 for or against unionization and is reasonably calculated to have that effect . . . The action
14 of employees with respect to the choice of their bargaining agents may be induced by
15 favors bestowed by the employer as well as by his threats or domination . . . The danger
16 inherent in well-timed increases in benefits is the suggestion of a fist inside the velvet
17 glove. Employees are not likely to miss the inference that the source of benefits now
18 conferred is also the source from which future benefits must flow and which may dry up
19 if it is not obliged.” *Id.* at 460. “The danger may be diminished if . . . the benefits are
20 conferred permanently and unconditionally. But the absence of conditions or threats
21 pertaining to the particular benefits conferred would be of controlling significance only if
22 it could be presumed that no question of additional benefits or renegotiation of existing
23 benefits would arise in the future; and, of course, no such presumption is tenable . . . [I]n
24 most cases of this kind [of] increase in benefits could be regarded as one part of an
25 overall program of interference and restraint by the employer.” *Id.*

1 “Other unlawful conduct may often be an indication of the motive behind a grant of
2 benefits while an election is pending, and to that extent it is relevant to the legality of the
3 grant; [A]n employer is not free to violate s 8(a)(1) by conferring benefits simply because
4 it refrains from other, more obvious violations . . . The beneficence of an employer is
5 likely to be ephemeral if prompted by a threat of unionization which is subsequently
6 removed. Insulating the right of collective organization from calculated good will of this
7 sort deprives employees of little that has lasting value.” *Id.*; *see also Jewish Home for the*
8 *Elderly of Fairfield County*, 343 NLRB 1069, 1088-89 (2004)(“Although the Board has
9 held that the grant of benefits during an election campaign is not per se unlawful, the
10 Board will draw an inference of improper motivation and interference with employee free
11 choice where the evidence shows that employees would reasonably view the grant of
12 benefit as an attempt to interfere with or coerce them in their choice of representative . . .
13 [T]he Board [has also] held that the timing of an employer's announcement of wage
14 increases during a union campaign may be unlawful even if the wage increase itself does
15 not violate the Act.”); *Pacific Coast M.S. Industries Co., Ltd.*, 355 NLRB 1422, 1422
16 (2010) (finding a violation of Section 8(a)(1) where the employer "failed to demonstrate
17 that it had crystallized its wage increase decision before it learned of the union activity or
18 that the grant would have occurred if the Union had not been on the scene.”); *Evergreen*
19 *America Corp.*, 348 NLRB 178, 180 (2006)(finding that grants of benefits which included
20 wage increases, improvements to sick leave and attendance policies, implementation of
21 flexible work schedules, expansion of the casual dress policy, and permitting employees'
22 spouses and guests to attend the company holiday party constituted unlawful benefits in
23 violation of the Act; noting that such unlawful grants of benefits may have “a particularly
24 longlasting effect on employees and are difficult to remedy . . . because of their
25 significance to the employees . . .”); *Holly Farms Corp.*, 311 NLRB 273, 274 (1993)
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1 ("[W]e draw an inference of improper motivation and interference with employee free
2 choice [as to the employer's grant of benefits] from all the evidence presented and from
3 the [employer]'s failure to establish a legitimate reason for the timing of the [wage]
4 increase.").

5 Petitioner argues that Greenbrier's decision to roll back attendance points violated
6 §8(a)(1). On 11/15/12, a few days after the layoffs, Greenbrier announced to the
7 remaining Tucson employees that it would "zero out" their attendance points which
8 would give them a totally clean slate as to attendance issues. The decision was made
9 after Greenbrier was aware of the Union campaign, a few days after the layoffs, and
10 shortly after the Union election petition was filed. Under Greenbrier policies, employees
11 received negative points for absences, which included: a verbal warning for two points; a
12 written warning for five points; a three day suspension for eight points, and getting fired
13 for nine points.
14

15 In response, Greenbrier argues that it only rolled back attendance points during that
16 time frame because it discovered that human resources officials in Tucson had made
17 extensive mistakes in applying and recording attendance points. As such, Greenbrier
18 decided to roll back all the points to zero to rectify the problem. However, instead of
19 rolling back all the attendance points to zero, Greenbrier could have corrected the
20 inaccuracies as to the remaining employees such that their records accurately reflected
21 their attendance history. In a meeting with employees shortly before the July 2013
22 election, management pointed out that rolling back the attendance points was an example
23 of how employees benefitted from Greenbrier's flexibility to implement such actions, and
24 that a Union could hamper such flexibility. Prior to 11/15/12, attendance points had
25 never been rolled back to zero in Tucson. In addition, a regional human resources
26 manager for Greenbrier (Lisa Maxey) testified that such a rollback had never occurred
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1 during her tenure for the eight facilities under her supervision. Petitioner has shown a
2 likelihood of success as to a §8(a)(1) violation regarding the roll back of attendance
3 points.

4 Petitioner also argues that Greenbrier violated §8(a)(1) when it increased the maximum
5 pay rate for employees in February of 2013; employees were told the pay rate was being
6 raised to increase efficiency, production, and for employee morale. However, it appears
7 that the wage increase was consistent with Greenbrier's routine practice of raising rates at
8 periodic times throughout the year. The wage increase was part of a Company-wide,
9 routine wage increase that applied to hundreds of Greenbrier employees dispersed across
10 the country in numerous locations other than Tucson. Petitioner has not shown a
11 likelihood of success as to the pay raise in February of 2013.

12
13 Petitioner argues that Greenbrier's safety poker program violated §8(a)(1). In April or
14 May of 2013, prior to the July 2013 election, Greenbrier started a brand new safety poker
15 game at the Tucson plant that awarded prizes to employees such as iPads and tools. For a
16 period of approximately five weeks, employees would receive cards based on safety
17 performance; at the end of the five weeks the three employees with the best hands would
18 receive prizes. Greenbrier argues that the poker game was simply part of an effort to
19 increase safety at the Tucson plant which had a horrible safety record. Due to this poor
20 record, Greenbrier hired a new safety manager and the poker program was part of this
21 overall goal to encourage safety in Tucson. The safety record in Tucson improved
22 thereafter. However, in previous years, Tucson never had any such program where prizes
23 were awarded. In addition, although there was testimony from the new safety manager
24 that the results of the poker game were "awesome" insofar as improving safety in Tucson,
25 the safety poker game was discontinued shortly after the July 2013 election. Petitioner
26 has shown a likelihood of success that the safety poker games violated §8(a)(1).
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1 **§8(a)(1): Solicitation of Employee Complaints and Grievances**

2 Prior to the July 2013 election, in March of 2013, Greenbrier distributed an employee
3 satisfaction survey at the Tucson plant. Employees were told that the purpose of the
4 survey was to assess how they felt about working at the plant, and what improvements
5 could be made. The anonymous survey sought feedback on issues such as job
6 satisfaction, their supervisors, safety issues, and whether they would recommend the job
7 to others. Petitioner argues that Greenbrier violated §8(a)(1).
8

9 “[I]n the absence of a previous practice of doing so, the solicitation of grievances by an
10 employer during an organizational campaign violates the Act . . . The solicitation of
11 grievances alone is not unlawful, but it raises an inference that the employer is promising
12 to remedy the grievances. This inference is particularly compelling when, during a union
13 organizational campaign, an employer that has not previously had a practice of soliciting
14 employee grievances institutes such a practice . . . While an employer who has had a past
15 practice and policy of soliciting grievances may continue to do so during an
16 organizational campaign, an employer cannot rely on past practice if it significantly alters
17 its past manner and methods of solicitation during the campaign.” *Center Service System*
18 *Division*, 345 NLRB 729, 730 (2005); *Alamo Rent-A-Car*, 336 NLRB 1155, 1155 (2001)
19 (“[Employer] violated the Act by soliciting employee grievances and impliedly promising
20 to remedy them during a . . . employee meeting . . . [T]he employees could reasonably
21 infer that the Respondent was soliciting their complaints for the purpose of acting
22 favorably on them in order to blunt the employees' enthusiasm for, or at least perceived
23 need for, the Union.”).

24
25 Greenbrier argues that the idea for the written survey came solely from the new plant
26 manager (Eric Valenzuela). Valenzuela was taking a psychology class during this period
27 of time, had seen some surveys in his studies, and therefore thought it was a good idea to
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1 have a survey at the Tucson plant. However, Valenzuela never conducted a written
2 survey for his employers in previous management positions. In addition, such a written
3 survey had not been distributed to Tucson employees in the past. Petitioner has shown a
4 likelihood of success that the written survey violated §8(a)(1).

5 **§8(a)(1): Threats to Employees**

6 Employer threats of job loss, plant closure, and other adverse employment actions
7 stemming from Union activities violate §8(a)(1). Petitioner argues that certain statements
8 made by Greenbrier management to employees violated the Act.

9
10 Shortly before the July 2013 election, management held captive-audience meetings
11 with Tucson employees in June and July of 2013. Petitioner argues that Greenbrier
12 violated §8(a)(1) as it made various prohibited threats about job loss and negative
13 employment actions related to the Union. For example, management told employees that
14 their single largest customer (TTX) was adverse to unions, sends railcars to Tucson
15 because its non-union, that there was a risk that TTX would stop sending rail cars to
16 Tucson if it unionized, that the Tucson shop could close due to the problems caused by
17 unions especially in light of Tucson's recent problems, and that Greenbrier was being
18 forced to spend large amounts of money on attorneys' fees defending against the Union's
19 unfair labor practice allegations at a time when the Tucson shop is struggling to make a
20 profit to remain open. Upper management from TTX denied such claims as to its position
21 and actions in relation to unions. When Greenbrier management relayed these messages
22 to employees, they did not present any objective basis to support their claims. *See Jewish*
23 *Home for the Elderly of Fairfield County*, 343 NLRB at 1096 (employer violated the Act
24 where it threatened job loss and plant closure related to the employees' unionization
25 actions); *National Propane Partners, L.P.*, 337 NLRB 1006, 1017 (2002) (“[T]he Board
26 has recognized the right of an employer to make predictions as to the precise effects he
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1 believes unionization will have on his company, but the predictions must be carefully
2 phrased on the basis of objective fact to convey an employer's belief as to demonstrably
3 probable consequences beyond his control . . . [Here the employer's] statements contain
4 no such objective fact and are simply threats of discharge and plant closure if employees
5 unionize [in violation of the Act]."); *North Star Steel Company*, 347 NLRB 1364,
6 1365-66 (2006)(employer's statement that company would lose the ability to be flexible
7 during economic downturns if employees unionized a violation as the company furnished
8 no objective basis for claiming that unionization would adversely affect its ability to be
9 flexible during economic downturns); *Tellepsen Pipeline Services Co. v. NLRB*, 320 F.3d
10 554, 564 (5th Cir. 2003) (employer's comment that customer could terminate its contract
11 if the Union won and all employees could possibly lose their jobs constituted implied
12 threats of reprisals in violation of § 8(a)(1)); *Blaser Tool & Mold Co., Inc.*, 196 NLRB at
13 374 (1972) (employer's statement of concern that major customer might stop doing
14 business with the company if employees voted for the union constituted an implied threat
15 of job loss and plant closure as there was no objective factual basis for the comment);
16 *Mesker Door, Inc.*, 357 NLRB No. 59 slip. op. (2011), 2011 WL 3739685, 8 (employer's
17 statement that money spent on legal fees defending against unfair labor practice charges
18 could have been spent on improving life at the plant a violation as it sent the message that
19 filing charges was a futile act that cost employees larger bonuses; "reference to money
20 lost to the lawyers is essentially a statement saying that the unionization process was
21 costing the employees money, for it would have gone to them had they not begun the
22 process [and] violates Section 8(a)(1) for it attempts to teach the lesson that unionization
23 is self-defeating and thus a futility.").

24
25
26 Petitioner has shown a likelihood of success that statements made at the June and July
27 2013 meetings violated §8(a)(1).
28

1 **Gissell Bargaining Order**

2 Section 8(a)(5) of the NLRA states that it “shall be an unfair labor practice for an
3 employer . . . to refuse to bargain collectively with the representative of his employees,
4 subject to the provision of section 159(a) of this title.” Section 159(a) states:
5 “Representatives designated or selected for the purposes of collective bargaining by the
6 majority of the employees in a unit appropriate for such purposes, shall be the exclusive
7 representatives of all the employees in such unit for the purposes of collective bargaining
8 in respect to rates of pay, wages, hours of employment, or other conditions of
9 employment . . .”
10

11 Petitioner argues that pursuant to *NLRB v. Gissel Packing Co., Inc.*, 395 U.S. 575
12 (1969), Respondent is obligated under the NLRA to recognize and bargain with the Union
13 based solely on the possession of the signed union authorization cards reflecting majority
14 support for the union. In *Gissell*, the Court held that an employer's duty to bargain can
15 arise without a Board election under the NLRA and that union authorization cards, if
16 obtained from a majority of employees without misrepresentation or coercion, can
17 provide a valid, alternate route to majority status. *Id.* at 579. The Court further found
18 that a bargaining order is an appropriate remedy where an employer rejects a card
19 majority while at the same time committing unfair labor practices that undermine the
20 union's majority and make a fair election an unlikely possibility. *Id.*
21

22 In *Scott ex rel. N.L.R.B. v. Stephen Dunn & Associates*, 241 F.3d 652 (9th Cir. 2001),
23 the Ninth Circuit addressed the *Gissell* issue, stating in part:

24 In *Gissel*, the Supreme Court held that the Board may order an employer to
25 recognize and bargain with a union even when employees have not chosen union
26 representation through the normal election procedure. These bargaining orders are
27 appropriate in two limited circumstances. First, when an employer has engaged in
28 such outrageous and pervasive unfair labor practices that a fair and reliable election
can't be held, the Board may order bargaining even absent a showing of majority
support for the Union . . . Second, the Board may order bargaining when the Union
shows that it once had a majority and that its support was undermined by unfair

1 practices that impede[d] the election process . . . [The Board] must show both that
2 the Union secured the support of a majority of [the] employees and that [the
3 employer] subsequently engaged in unfair labor practices that undermined the
4 Union's majority and impeded the election process . . . Whether the Regional
5 Director provided sufficient evidence of majority status turns on the validity of the .
6 . . union authorization cards [reflecting that a majority of the pertinent employees
7 supported the Union] . . . The evidence supporting the Regional Director's
8 contention of majority support easily surpasses [the] minimal showing [required to
9 show majority status]. The cards themselves are unambiguous. Each card states
10 simply that the card signer 'authorized the above named Union to represent me in
11 collective bargaining with my Employer.' . . . [Once a majority is established, the
12 Court] turn[s] to the question of whether the unfair labor practices compel the
13 granting of an interim bargaining order . . . [W]hether the Board will issue a
14 bargaining order in the underlying administrative proceeding turns on the effect of
15 the alleged unfair labor practices on a subsequent representation election. This
16 inquiry is not mechanistic, but rather requires consideration of the specific facts of
17 each case. In other words, in the wake of [the employer's] illegal activity, is it
18 possible for employees to make a free and informed choice regarding union
19 representation?

20 *Id.* at 661-65, 666 (concluding that "despite the disfavored nature of bargaining orders,
21 the Regional Director has made a stronger case than [the employer] that it will prevail
22 after final proceedings before the Board. Further, the standard to be applied in a request
23 for section 10(j) relief is distinct from that applied by the Board. The district court in a
24 section 10(j) proceeding is not asked to make an independent determination as to whether
25 a bargaining order is appropriate. Rather, in order for the Regional Director to satisfy the
26 likelihood of success test . . . he need only present a fair chance of succeeding on the
27 merits. The existence of at least one 'hallmark' violation of the NLRA (i.e., the wage
28 increase) is sufficient to satisfy this minimal test and allow a consideration of the balance
of hardships resulting from an interim bargaining order.")⁴; *see also Gissel Packing Co.,
Inc.*, 395 U.S. at 614-15 ("The Board's authority to issue such [a bargaining order] on a
lesser showing of employer misconduct is appropriate, we should reemphasize, where
there is also a showing that at one point the union had a majority; in such a case, of

⁴Abrogated on other grounds. *See McDermott v. Ampersand Pub., LLC*, 593 F.3d 950, 957 (9th Cir. 2010).

1 course, effectuating ascertainable employee free choice becomes as important a goal as
2 deterring employer misbehavior. In fashioning a remedy in the exercise of its discretion,
3 then, the Board can properly take into consideration the extensiveness of an employer's
4 unfair practices in terms of their past effect on election conditions and the likelihood of
5 their recurrence in the future. If the Board finds that the possibility of erasing the effects
6 of past practices and of ensuring a fair election (or a fair rerun) by the use of traditional
7 remedies, though present, is slight and that employee sentiment once expressed through
8 cards would, on balance, be better protected by a bargaining order, then such an order
9 should issue.”)

10
11 The record reflects that by 11/8/12, the SMW obtained 50 signed SMW union
12 authorization cards; this is a majority of the 92 production employees at issue. The
13 signed authorization cards state in part: “I, the undersigned, hereby authorize the SHEET
14 METAL WORKERS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION . . . to represent me for
15 purposes of Collective Bargaining, and in my behalf, to negotiate and conclude all
16 agreements as to hours of labor, wages, and other conditions of employment.” There is
17 testimony that when these cards were distributed, employees were told to read the card
18 and sign it if they agreed, and that by signing the card employees agreed to be represented
19 by the SMW. There is also testimony from employees that it was their understanding that
20 by signing the card, they authorized the SMW to represent them. These cards were
21 obtained without coercion or misrepresentation. While the SMW had not yet requested
22 bargaining with Greenbrier by 11/8/12, the record reflects that Greenbrier had began its
23 anti-union actions by at least October of 2012 as discussed earlier in this Order. Thus,
24 upon securing a majority on 11/8/12, the SMW became the exclusive bargaining
25 representative for the petitioned-for unit of employees in Tucson. *See Parts Depot, Inc.*,
26 332 NLRB 670, 678 (2000)(“[T]he Government has established the validity of the 66
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1 authorization cards . . . That number is a majority of the . . . employees in the bargaining
2 unit . . . The next question is when did the Union achieve its majority status. Under Board
3 law, when (as here) there has been no demand for bargaining (other than what might exist
4 from the petition filed), the obligation to bargain attaches as of the date the respondent
5 begins a campaign of unfair labor practices, if the Union has a majority at that date, and if
6 no majority at that time, then when the Union attains a majority.”⁵ As discussed in
7 detail above, Greenbrier engaged in an extensive anti-union campaign that included
8 laying off a third of its work force, closing its Tucson factory, interrogation and the
9 impression of surveillance, promises and grants of benefits, solicitation of employee
10 complaints and grievances, and threats to employees. Based on such actions, Greenbrier
11 completely undermined any past and future support for the SMW, and Petitioner has
12 shown a likelihood of success that a *Gissell* bargaining order is warranted in this case
13 such that Greenbrier is required to bargain with the Union on a interim basis while this
14 case is pending before the NLRB. *See, e.g., Gissel Packing Co., Inc.*, 395 U.S. at 614-15;
15 *Stephen Dunn & Associates*, 241 F.3d at 661-65, 666; *NLRB v. Electro-Voice, Inc.*, 83
16 F.3d 1559, 1571-72 (7th Cir. 1996); *NLRB v. Fort Vancouver Plywood Co.*, 604 F.2d 596,
17 600-601 (9th Cir. 1979); *Hambre Hombre Enterprises, Inc. v. NLRB*, 581 F.2d 204, 207
18 (9th Cir. 1978); *NLRB v. Tischler d/b/a Devon Gables Nursing Home*, 615 F.2d 509 (9th
19 Cir. 1980); *NLRB v. Anchorage Times Pub. Co.*, 637 F.2d 1359, 1370 (9th Cir. 1981),
20 cert. denied, 454 U.S. 835 (1981); *Carter & Sons Freightways, Inc.*, 325 NLRB 433, 440
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24 ⁵The record reflects that Greenbrier failed to bargain regarding the decision and
25 effects of the layoffs and the plant closure (that factored in either direct or indirect labor costs
26 in the decision); these were mandatory subjects of bargaining and Petitioner has shown a
27 likelihood of success that these actions (or lack thereof) violated §8(a)(5) of the Act. *See*
28 *NLRB v. Advertisers Mfg., Co.*, 823 F.2d 1086, 1090 (7th Cir. 1987); *McClain E-Z Pack,*
Inc., 342 NLRB 337, 342 (2004); *Vico Products Co., Inc. v. NLRB*, 333 F.3d 198, 206 (D.C.
Cir. 2003); *A-1 Fire Protection Inc.*, 273 NLRB 964, 967 (1984); *San Luis Trucking, Inc.*,
352 NLRB 211, 230 (2008).

1 (1998); *Joy Recovery Technology Corp.*, 320 NLRB 356, 368 (1995) enf'd 134 F.3d 1307
2 (7th Cir. 1998); *Sumo Container Station, Inc.*, 317 NLRB 383, 393 (1995).

3 **IRREPARABLE HARM, BALANCE OF HARDSHIPS, PUBLIC INTEREST**

4 “In the context of the NLRA, permit[ting an] alleged unfair labor practice to reach
5 fruition and thereby render meaningless the Board's remedial authority is irreparable harm
6 . . . In other words, while a district court may not presume irreparable injury with regard
7 to likely unfair labor practices generally, irreparable injury is established if a likely unfair
8 labor practice is shown along with a present or impending deleterious effect of the likely
9 unfair labor practice that would likely not be cured by later relief. In making the latter
10 determination, inferences from the nature of the particular unfair labor practice at issue
11 remain available.” *Frankl*, 650 F.3d at 1326; *see also Kreisberg v. HealthBridge*
12 *Management, LLC*, 732 F.3d 131, 142-143 (2d Cir. 2013)(“The appropriate test for
13 whether harm is irreparable in the context of §10(j) cases is whether the employees'
14 collective bargaining rights may be undermined by the asserted unfair labor practices and
15 whether any further delay may impair or undermine such bargaining in the future. The
16 appropriate status quo in need of preservation is that which was in existence before the
17 unfair labor practice occurred.”). “[I]n considering the balance of hardships, the district
18 court must take into account the probability that declining to issue the injunction will
19 permit the alleged unfair labor practices to reach fruition and thereby render meaningless
20 the Board's remedial authority . . . [A] determination that the Regional Director had
21 shown likely irreparable harm to the collective bargaining process mean[s] that there [is]
22 also considerable weight on his side of the balance of the hardships.” *Frankl*, 650 F.3d at
23 1362. “In § 10(j) cases, the public interest is to ensure that an unfair labor practice will
24 not succeed because the Board takes too long to investigate and adjudicate the charge . . .
25 Ordinarily . . . when . . . the Director makes a strong showing of likelihood of success
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1 and of likelihood of irreparable harm, the Director will have established that preliminary
2 relief is in the public interest . . . The purpose of § 10(j) relief is to preserve the Board's
3 remedial power . . . The task of the Board in devising a final remedy is to take measures
4 designed to recreate the conditions and relationships that would have been had there been
5 no unfair labor practice . . . Very often, the most effective way to protect the Board's
6 ability to recreate such relationships and restore the status quo will be for the court itself
7 to order a return to the status quo.” *Id* at 1365-66.

8
9 To restore the status quo and preserve the Board’s remedial power, Petitioner requests
10 an interim restoration of Greenbrier’s operations at its Tucson facility and an interim
11 *Gissell* bargaining order directing Greenbrier to bargain in good faith to an agreement or
12 an impasse over the terms of a labor agreement, or a lawfully motivated reason to move
13 the Tucson facility. In addition, Petitioner specifically requests that any interim relief
14 granted include an order requiring Greenbrier to: reopen the Tucson facility; reinstate the
15 employees who were discharged or transferred; request that TTX restore the work it was
16 previously sending to the Tucson facility at the same hourly rate TTX was previously
17 being charged - and transfer work from its other facilities to Tucson, to the extent
18 feasible, in the event TTX declines the request; requiring Greenbrier to recognize and
19 bargain with the Union on an interim basis; a notice-reading remedy; and a broad
20 cease-and-desist order requiring Greenbrier to refrain from continuing to engage in unfair
21 labor practices in violation of the Act.

22
23 The record reflects that the remaining three factors (irreparable harm, balancing of
24 hardships, and public interest) weigh in favor of Petitioner, and he is entitled to the relief
25 requested. Before Greenbrier began its unfair labor practices, union support was strong
26 and Tucson employees collected a majority of union authorization cards within a couple
27 of weeks for two separate unions. In response, as discussed in detailed throughout this
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1 Order, Greenbrier engaged in an anti-union campaign that included laying off a third of
2 its work force, closing its Tucson factory, interrogation and the impression of
3 surveillance, promises and grants of benefits, solicitation of employee complaints and
4 grievances, and threats to employees; these actions gutted any past and future support for
5 unionization. This is reflected in the overwhelming SMW election defeat in July of 2013;
6 only 14 employees voted for the Union, while 45 voted against the Union. Prior to these
7 unfair labor practices, employees strongly favored unionization, and additional delay in
8 granting the relief requested by Petitioner will undercut the employees' bargaining rights.
9

10 There are still former Greenbrier employees in Tucson, and others that still have
11 connections to Tucson; however, as more time passes before granting relief, an increased
12 number of employees will have obtained employment elsewhere, settled into new
13 locations where they have been transferred, and therefore the prospect of working in
14 Tucson and with Greenbrier decreases. In the interim before the Board issues its
15 decision, the Tucson plant would likely be sold, all former employees would be working
16 in other locations or for other employers and will have no desire to return to Tucson, and
17 former customers would be unwilling to send work to Tucson as they have been receiving
18 repairs elsewhere for an extended period of time. These eventualities would jeopardize
19 future remedies ordered by the Board. While Greenbrier will incur costs in granting the
20 relief requested by Petitioner, it is not an undue burden.⁶ In addition, the hardships to
21 Greenbrier are minimal compared to the statutory rights and collective bargaining process
22 at issue. Greenbrier still owns the land where the Tucson plant is located, still has some
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25 ⁶See *Lear Siegler, Inc.*, 295 NLRB 857, 862 (1989); *Fibreboard Paper Products*
26 *Corp. v. NLRB*, 379 U.S. 203, 215, (1964); *NLRB. v. Flamingo-Hilton Reno, Inc.*, 1998 WL
27 84154, 4 (9th Cir. 1998) enforcing 321 NLRB 409 (1996); *Mid-South Bottling Co. v. NLRB*,
28 876 F.2d 458 (5th Cir. 1989) enforcing 287 NLRB 1333 (1988); *Reno Hilton Resorts v.*
NLRB, 196 F.3d 1275 (DC Cir. 1999) enforcing 326 NLRB 1421 (1998); *Power Inc.*, 311
NLRB 599, 600 (1993)

1 infrastructure and equipment there, and many experienced Tucson employees and
2 management are still employed by Greenbrier at other locations. The Tucson plant could
3 reopen and still support approximately 17 full-time employees even without TTX work,
4 and customers other than TTX appear willing to send repair work to Tucson. There are
5 still 23 bargaining unit employees in Tucson who were laid-off and did not relocate. The
6 record reflects that non-TTX customers accounted for 22% of total revenues, that total
7 revenues from non-TTX customers during the time at issue accounted for almost
8 \$6,000,000; of the non-TTX customers, Greenbrier's own railcars accounted for 19% of
9 total revenues (approximately \$3,600,000) and generated \$157,240 per month in revenues
10 working on its own railcars in the Tucson shop. Thus, the Tucson shop could reopen with
11 a group of 17 employees to repair its own railcars and other non-TTX customers;
12 although it would be smaller than its size prior to the unfair labor practices at issue,
13 Greenbrier has such smaller operations in Hodge, Louisiana (12 employees) and
14 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (9 employees). The Court also notes that throughout 2013,
15 prior to the decision to close, Tucson was a profitable shop. In 2013, The Greenbrier
16 Companies, Inc. had revenues of \$1.7 billion and earnings from operations of \$41.65
17 million. Upon reopening and reinstating employees, Greenbrier would have experienced
18 employees to perform work, have the right to manage as it pleases in a non-discriminatory
19 manner, and the interim Order only requires Greenbrier to bargain with the Union in good
20 faith periodically to reach an agreement or a bona fide impasse. The hardship to
21 Greenbrier is minimal compared to the impairment of the statutory rights and collective
22 bargaining process at issue in this case. Without the interim injunctive relief requested by
23 Petitioner, Greenbrier's unfair labor practices will reach fruition and the Board's remedial
24 authority will be undercut; granting interim relief favors the public interest by protecting
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1 the statutory rights and collective bargaining process at issue, and preserving the Board's
2 remedial authority.

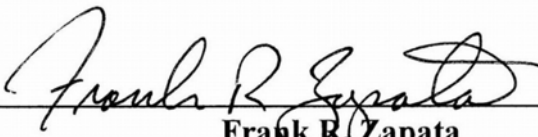
3 Based on the record before the Court and the foregoing discussion throughout this
4 Order, the Court will issue an order granting interim restoration of Greenbrier's
5 operations at its Tucson facility; an interim *Gissell* bargaining order directing Greenbrier
6 to bargain in good faith to an agreement or an impasse over the terms of a labor
7 agreement, or a lawfully motivated reason to move the Tucson facility; and the specific
8 relief reflected above. *See, e.g., We Can, Inc.*, 315 NLRB 170, 175 (1994); *San Luis*
9 *Trucking, Inc.*, 352 NLRB 211, 230 (2008), *enf'd*, 479 Fed.Appx. 743 (9th Cir. 2012);
10 *NLRB v. Joy Recovery Technology System*, 134 F.3d 1307, 1316 (7th Cir. 1998); *Frye v.*
11 *Seminole Intermodal Transport Inc.*, 1992 WL 321555, *3 (S.D. Ohio 1992); *O'Dovero v.*
12 *NLRB*, 193 F.3d 532 (D.C. Cir. 1999); *Vico Products, Inc.*, 333 F.3d 198, 213 (D.C. Cir.
13 2003); *Geiger Ready Mix of Kansas City*, 315 NLRB 1021, 1022-23 (1994), enforced as
14 modified 87 F.3d 1363, 1368-71 (D.C. Cir. 1996); *Woodline Motor Freight, Inc. v. NLRB*,
15 843 F.2d 285, 291 (8th Cir. 1988); *Cub Branch Mining Inc.*, 300 NLRB 57 (1990); *N.C.*
16 *Coastal Motor Lines, Inc.*, 219 NLRB 1009 (1975), *enf'd*, 542 F.2d 637 (4th Cir. 1976);
17 *Power Inc.*, 311 NLRB at 599-600, fn. 3-4; *Carter & Sons Freightways, Inc.*, 325 NLRB
18 433 (1998); *NLRB v. Tomco Carburetor Co.*, 853 F.2d 744 (9th Cir. 1988); *Town &*
19 *Country Mfg. Co. v. NLRB*, 316 F.2d 846, 847 (5th Cir. 1963); *NLRB v. Cofer*, 637 F.2d
20 1309, 1315 (9th Cir. 1981).
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1 **CONCLUSION**

2 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

3 (1) Petitioner's Petition for Temporary Injunction Under Section 10(j) [29 U.S.C. §160(j)]
4 of the National Labor Relations Act is granted; the Court has also attached a separate
5 Order as to the temporary injunction.

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7 DATED this 14th day of March, 2014.
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11 **Frank R. Zapata**
12 **Senior United States District Judge**
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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

**CORNELE A. OVERSTREET,
Regional Director of the Twenty-Eighth
Region of the National Labor Relations
Board, for and on behalf of the
National Labor Relations Board,**

Petitioner,

v.

**GUNDERSON RAIL SERVICES, LLC
d/b/a GREENBRIER RAIL
SERVICES,**

Respondent.

No. CV 14-1323-TUC-FRZ

**ORDER GRANTING TEMPORARY
INJUNCTION**

This cause came to be heard upon the verified petition of Cornele A. Overstreet, Regional Director for Region 28 of the National Labor Relations Board (Petitioner), by and on behalf of the National Labor Relations Board (the Board), for a temporary injunction pursuant to Section 10(j) of the National Labor Relations Act, as amended (the Act), pending the final disposition of the matter involved pending before the Board, and upon issuance of an order scheduling a hearing. All parties were afforded full opportunity to be heard, and the Court, upon consideration of the pleadings, record evidence, briefs, and the entire record in the case, finding and concluding that Petitioner

1 has a substantial likelihood of success in prevailing in the underlying administrative
2 proceedings and will establish that Gunderson Rail Services, LLC d/b/a Greenbrier Rail
3 Services (Respondent) has engaged in, and is engaging in, acts and conduct in violation
4 of Section 8(a)(1), (3), (4), and (5) of the Act, affecting commerce within the meaning of
5 Sections 2(6) and (7) of the Act, and that Respondent will, unless enjoined, continue to
6 engage in those acts and conduct, or similar acts and conduct constituting unfair labor
7 practices during the proceedings before the Board.

9 Now, therefore, upon the entire record, it is **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND**
10 **DECREED** that, pending the final disposition of the matter involved pending before the
11 Board, the Petition for Temporary Injunction should be, and hereby is, granted in the
12 manner specifically set forth below:

13 Respondent, its officers, agents, servants, representatives, successors, and assigns,
14 and all persons acting in concert with it or them, be, and they hereby is, enjoined and
15 restrained from:

17 (a) interrogating employees about their union membership, activities,
18 and sympathies, and the union membership, activities, and sympathies of other
19 employees;

21 (b) creating an impression among its employees that their union
22 activities are under surveillance by Respondent;

23 (c) promising its employees increased benefits and pay, including
24 erasing their accumulated attendance points, in order to dissuade employee support for
25 the Union;

1 (d) granting increased benefits and pay to its employees, including
2 eliminating their accumulated attendance points, in order to dissuade their support for the
3 Union;

4 (e) promising its employees increased benefits and pay, including an
5 increase in the maximum hourly pay rate, in order to dissuade their support for the Union;
6

7 (f) granting its employees increased benefits and pay, including
8 increasing the maximum hourly pay rate, in order to dissuade their support for the Union;

9 (g) implementing a safety committee and raffle for employees in order
10 to dissuade their support for the Union;

11 (h) by soliciting employee complaints and grievances, promising its
12 employees increased benefits and improved conditions of employment if they refrained
13 from union organizational activity;

14 (i) engaging in the surveillance of employees engaged in union activity;

15 (j) threatening employees with plant closure if they selected the Union
16 as their collective-bargaining representative;

17 (k) denigrating the Union by telling its employees that Respondent was
18 spending money on attorney fees to defend against unfair labor practice charges during
19 difficult economic times, in order to discourage employees from supporting the Union;
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21 (l) threatening employees with plant closure by issuing to them WARN
22 Act notices announcing the closure of the Tucson, Arizona facility;
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1 (m) laying off its employees because Respondent believed the employees
2 assisted the Union and engaged in concerted activities, and to discourage employees from
3 engaging in these activities;

4 (n) discharging its employees because they assisted the Union and
5 engaged in Union and other concerted activities, and to discourage employees from
6 engaging in these activities;

7 (o) failing and refusing to recognize and bargain in good faith with the
8 Union as the exclusive collective-bargaining representative of employees in the following
9 unit:
10

11 All full-time and regular part-time AAR write-up employees, airmen,
12 laborers, material handlers, maintenance mechanics, painters, switchmen,
13 and welder repairmen located at Respondent's Tucson, Arizona facility,
14 excluding all other employees, including quality assurance inspectors,
15 office clericals, guards, safety coordinators, plant managers, production
16 managers, foremen, quality assurance managers, material managers, plant
17 accounting managers, and supervisors as defined in the Act.

18 (p) unilaterally, without first providing the Union with notice and the
19 opportunity to bargain, implementing and/or making changes to employee working
20 conditions, including but not limited to: increasing the maximum hourly rate;
21 implementing a safety committee and raffle; and ceasing the safety committee and raffle;

22 (q) unilaterally, without first providing the Union with notice and the
23 opportunity to bargain, recalling laid-off employees;

24 (r) unilaterally, without first providing the Union with notice and the
25 opportunity to bargain, discharging employees;

26 (s) further transferring work or selling, transferring, or relocating assets
or real property from its Tucson facility; and

1 (t) in any other manner interfering with, restraining, or coercing its
2 employees in the exercise of their Section 7 rights.

3 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Respondent, its officers, agents, servants,
4 representatives, successors, and assigns, and all persons acting in concert with it or them,
5 pending the final disposition of the matters involved herein pending before the Board and
6 to the extent that it has not already done so, shall take the following affirmative actions:
7

8 (a) Within five (5) days of the Court's issuance of an Order Granting
9 Temporary Injunction, to the extent that they have not already been reinstated, offer, in
10 writing, to Alex Amador, Jesus Fernando Barnes, David Bottineau, Oswaldo Chavira,
11 Karim Duqmaq, Hector Federico, Jaime Hernandez, Jesus Armando Lopez-Nuno, Jorge
12 Martinez, Ricardo Martinez, Karl Mason, Juan Morales, Chad Morshback, Guillermo
13 Murguia, Jose Angel Ortega, Carlos Contreras Ortiz, Gabriel Ortiz, Brian Perona,
14 Guillermo Gonzalez Pico, Jesus Omar Ramos, Jeff Raske, Jesus Ruiz, Oscar Salinas,
15 Brian Scaggs, Jose Manuel Sepulveda, Frank Soto, Martin Valdez, Rogelio Martinez, and
16 Juan Silva, immediate reinstatement to their former respective positions, and if such jobs
17 no longer exist, to substantially equivalent positions, without any loss to their seniority
18 rights or any other privileges;
19

20 (b) Within fourteen (14) days of the Court's issuance of an Order
21 Granting Temporary Injunction, remove from its files, any and all records of its layoffs
22 and/or discharges of Alex Amador, Jesus Fernando Barnes, David Bottineau, Oswaldo
23 Chavira, Karim Duqmaq, Hector Federico, Jaime Hernandez, Jesus Armando Lopez-
24 Nuno, Jorge Martinez, Ricardo Martinez, Karl Mason, Juan Morales, Chad Morshback,
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1 Guillermo Murguia, Jose Angel Ortega, Carlos Contreras Ortiz, Gabriel Ortiz, Brian
2 Perona, Guillermo Gonzalez Pico, Jesus Omar Ramos, Jeff Raske, Jesus Ruiz, Oscar
3 Salinas, Brian Scaggs, Jose Manuel Sepulveda, Frank Soto, Martin Valdez, Rogelio
4 Martinez, and Juan Silva, and within three (3) days thereafter, notify them in writing that
5 this was done, and that the material removed will not be used as a basis for any future
6 personnel action against them or referred to in response to any inquiry from any
7 employer, employment agency, unemployment insurance office, or reference seeker, or
8 otherwise used against them;

10 (c) Post copies of the Court's Order Granting Temporary Injunction at
11 Respondent's facility, as well as translations of such an Order in Spanish and languages
12 other than English as necessary to ensure effective communication to Respondent's
13 employees as determined by the Regional Director, said translations to be provided to
14 Respondent by the Regional Director, in all places where notices to its employees are
15 normally posted; maintain these postings during the Board's administrative proceeding
16 free from all obstructions and defacements; grant all employees free and unrestricted
17 access to said postings; and grant to agents of the Board reasonable access to its facilities
18 to monitor compliance with this posting requirement;

21 (d) In addition to physical posting of paper copies of an Order Granting
22 Temporary Injunction Order, distribute the Court's Order electronically, such as by e-
23 mail, posting on an intranet site or an internet site, or other electronic means, if
24 Respondent customarily communicates with its employees by such means. Respondent
25 shall e-mail to the Regional Director, to the attention of Region 28's Compliance Officer,
26

1 at Miguel.Rodriguez@nlrb.gov, a link to the electronic posting location on the same day
2 as the posting. In the event that passwords or other log-on information is required to
3 access the electronic posting, Respondent agrees to provide such access information to
4 the Region's Compliance Officer. If the Notice is distributed via e-mail, Respondent will
5 forward a copy of the e-mail distributed to the Region's Compliance Officer.
6

7 (e) Within ten (10) days of the Court's issuance of an Order Granting
8 Temporary Injunction, hold a meeting or meetings at which the Court's Order is to be
9 read to the employees by a responsible agent of Respondent, by or in the presence of
10 Mike Torra, Al Lave, Juan Maciel, and Lisa Maxey, or the successor to any of these
11 individuals, and in the presence of an agent of the Board, or, at Respondent's option, by a
12 Board Agent in the presence of Torra, Lave, Maciel, and Maxey, or the successor to any
13 of these individuals, to all employees employed by Respondent at Respondent's facility,
14 including at multiple meetings and in Spanish and other languages, if necessary as
15 determined by the Regional Director, to ensure that it is read aloud to all employees;
16

17 (f) Recognize the Union as the collective-bargaining representative of
18 the Unit;

19 (g) Bargain in good faith with the Union with respect to rates of pay,
20 wages, hours of work, and other conditions of employment, and if an understanding is
21 reached, embody such understanding in a signed agreement;
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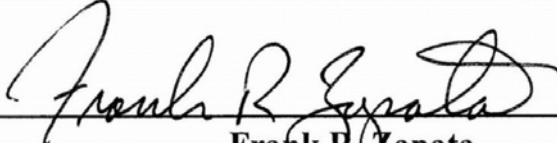
23 (h) Restore operations at Respondent's facility to the status quo ante and
24 maintain those operations by, *inter alia*, requesting its customer, TTX, to restore
25 bargaining unit work at the Tucson facility at its prior hourly rates;
26

1 (i) Within five (5) days of the Court's issuance of an Order Granting
2 Temporary Injunction, to the extent that they have not already been reinstated, offer, in
3 writing, to bargaining unit employees who were employed by Respondent at its Tucson
4 facility on September 5, 2013 immediate reinstatement to their former respective
5 positions, and if such jobs no longer exist, to substantially equivalent positions, without
6 any loss to their seniority rights or any other privileges;
7

8 (j) To the extent that work at the Tucson facility is insufficient to
9 provide reinstatement as described in paragraph 2(i) above, to transfer work from other
10 facilities of Respondent to the Tucson facility and/or establish a preferential hiring list;
11 and
12

13 (k) Within twenty days of the Court's issuance of an Order Granting
14 Temporary Injunction, submit to the Court and the Regional Director for Region 28 of
15 the Board a sworn affidavit from a responsible agent of Respondent stating, with
16 specificity, the manner in which Respondent has complied with the terms of the Court's
17 Order.

18 Dated this 14th day of March, 2014.
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21 
22 _____
23 Frank R. Zapata
24 Senior United States District Judge
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