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## Bain Owned Factory Outsourcing Jobs for China

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Tampa, FLA-- Today *Democracy Now!* Founder Amy Goodman interviewed a couple of workers from Sensata Technologies in Freeport, Illinois who traveled with their group to the Republican National Convention (RNC) to petition Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney to help save their jobs.<sup>[1]</sup> Can Mr. Romney, co-founder of Bain Capital and majority owner, please recall Bain Capital's decision to move Freeport's Sensata Technologies plant to China? Their pleas in Freeport have so far been ignored, despite appeals to politicians and even Illinois Governor Pat Quinn.<sup>[2]</sup>

It is not as if Sensata, owned by Bain capital and which bought the Freeport plant from Honeywell at the start of 2011, needs to be overly concerned about profit. Sensata, the world's leading supplier of sensors and controls from vehicles to aircrafts, has posted record earnings according to company press releases: "Second quarter 2012 net revenue was a record \$504.6 million, an increase of 10.9% from the second quarter 2011 net revenue of \$455.0 million."<sup>[3]</sup> But obviously, capitalism is more about money than about people. This is why according to reporter Paul Harris, "Romney has portrayed Bain as a model for the American future."<sup>[4]</sup>

A model for the future of America will be to exacerbate unemployment problems, such as in these already hard-hit Midwestern towns, in the name of corporate profits and other austerity measures? As bit by bit the machinery at the Freeport Sensata factory have been shipped to China, these 170 long-time employees are increasingly anguished about their future and being converted from high-pay to low-wage earners, not to mention concerned about future homelessness and other social costs (Asian backlash included).

This is why a group of workers have been petitioning to save their jobs scheduled to end this year. In response to Amy Goodman's question on why she was protesting at the RNC, Cheryl Randecker replied,

Mitt Romney created a model of outsourcing jobs, he created Bain, so therefore, it is his responsibility. And he is still reaping very high benefits from Bain, in the financial end of it. So he can pick up the phone and call his buddies and say, we need to stop this practice, and keep the US jobs here--good paying jobs, not the lower-paying jobs.<sup>[5]</sup>

Randecker expresses the heart-wrenching feeling for U.S. plant workers forced to train future Chinese workers how to operate their own highly technical equipment. Meanwhile, the Romney campaign touts photos of various supporters under its Communities webpage, including "Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders for Romney," "Farmers and Ranchers for Romney," "Lawyers for Romney," and even "Polish Americans for Romney."<sup>[6]</sup> Photo opportunities for corporate benefactors, perhaps?

Asked by Ms. Goodman what he would have to say to the candidate if Romney deigned to meet with them, protester Tom Gaulrapp replied, "What I would say is he should be ashamed of what they are doing, because they are destroying our American dream to increase their profits."<sup>[7]</sup> In fact, Mr. Gaulrapp would know, since he (along with other factory workers) have been tirelessly petitioning at various Romney campaign offices and events, such as in Wisconsin and Iowa, only to be locked out of offices or heckled by Romney supporters as "communist," and "un-American."

"They make it sound like we're not patriotic," Tom Gaulrapp defended, "...These products have always been profitable, and it is just not enough... They should be ashamed of what they are doing, because they are destroying our American dream to increase their profits."<sup>[8]</sup> Try profitable by the ton because since its takeover of Sensata, Bain has "quadrupled its initial 2006 investment."<sup>[9]</sup>

My conclusion is that this is yet another demonstration of how for-profit austerity measures will pinch the American middle-class out of its hopes and savings. It will potentially divide them, too, as they continue to scabble for fewer and fewer high paying professional positions.

*Article researched and written by Chriswong (blu-geese.org)*

Sources:

1. Amy Goodman, "Workers at Bain-Owned Illinois Factory Bring Fight to Save Their Outsourced Jobs to Romney and RNC," *Democracy Now*, August 28, 2012, accessed August 28, 2012, [http://www.democracynow.org/se0/2012/8/28/workers\\_at\\_bain\\_owned\\_illinois\\_factory](http://www.democracynow.org/se0/2012/8/28/workers_at_bain_owned_illinois_factory).
2. Paul Harris, "'I'm sick to my stomach': anger grows in Illinois at Bain's latest outsourcing plan," *The Guardian*, August 10, 2012, accessed August 28, 2012, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2012/aug/10/illinois-workers-bain-outsourcing>.
3. Sensata Technologies Inc., "Press Room," *About Us*, Press Release July 25, 2012, August 28, 2012 <http://pressroom.sensata.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=210277&p=irol-press&nyo=0>.
4. Harris, *The Guardian*, August 10, 2012.
5. Goodman, *Democracy Now*, August 28, 2012.
6. Romney for President, Inc., "Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders for Romney," *Romney Ryan*, Team Virginia, accessed August 28, 2012, <http://www.mittromney.com/coalitions/asian-americans-and-pacific-islanders-for-romney>.
7. Goodman, *Democracy Now*, August 28, 2012.
8. Ibid.
9. Harris, *The Guardian*, August 10, 2012.

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