



Letter to Members  
from  
USW President  
Leo W. Gerard

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

**Great Week in Denver ...**

The Democratic Convention in Denver was truly inspiring – everything from our party honoring Ted Kennedy’s contributions to working Americans to Hillary and Bill Clinton leaving no doubt about their total support for Barack Obama. Joe Biden got everyone’s blood pumping when he talked about giving middle-class Americans a fair chance and for taking the current Administration to task for doing nothing but pandering to the rich.

I left the Convention just in time to fly to Warren, Ohio to watch our candidate’s acceptance speech with hundreds of members and their families. I am so proud of the fact that Steelworkers got together for “watch parties” all across our great nation to experience this historic event together. We hosted more than 400 parties in homes and union halls across America – and in Canada too!

**... and for America**

The energy for change is contagious. There is no way that working Americans can put up with another four years that are anything like the last eight under Bush-Cheney. Sen. Obama is offering America an administration that will “protect us from harm and provide every child a decent education; keep our water clean and our toys safe; invest in new schools and new roads and new science and technology.”

Last night we released the following statement after Barack accepted the Democratic Party nomination:

## **Some Thoughts from the Convention**

If you haven't had the opportunity yet, I encourage you to check out my daily reports from Denver . The first, posted on Tuesday, contrasted Biden and Obama with their Republican opponent, the fabulously wealthy John McCain, who wants to make permanent those tax breaks that Bush gave to the rich. It's called: This presidential race is green; not black and white

On the first night of the convention, I was struck by the contrast in philosophy between Ted Kennedy and McCain. Kennedy, born to wealth, has always used his power and position to speak for the voiceless. Now that's a maverick! McCain, by contrast, voted with Bush 95 percent of the time last year and 100 percent this year. That, as Sen. Bob Casey of Pennsylvania put it in his speech, is a sidekick. I wrote about it in a piece called Wealthy Kennedy's democratic philosophy starkly contrasts with Ferragamo-loafed McCain's Republican dollar-worship

Of course, as everyone remembers, Hillary Clinton's speech was highlighted by her giving Obama her full endorsement. It was interesting to note how many times she, Gov. Mark Warner and others mentioned the future. It came up again and again. The Democrats clearly are focused on new technologies to solve crises like global warming and shocking gasoline prices. John McCain, who doesn't even know how to use the internet, is caught in the past – just the same old, same old – drill, drill, drill your way out of every problem. My blog on this is called Democrats hope for future; Republicans trickle on it

## **Block Walk for Obama-Biden**

On Thursday, Sept. 4, Steelworkers across the nation will be joining fellow union members to block walk for Barack Obama and Joe Biden. That day, John McCain will be accepting the Republican nomination and it's important that working families send a message that McCain is the wrong candidate for us. Check out our Web site for more information on this big action – you'll see an interactive map where you can find a block walk near your, an online sign up sheet and a video where fellow USW members talk about why they're walking for Obama-Biden.