

August 11, 2011

<http://detroitnews.com/article/20110811/AUTO01/108110466>

BMW, Teamsters reach deal to keep Calif. parts depot open

DAVID SHEPARDSON

/ Detroit News Washington Bureau

Washington — BMW AG and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters reached a deal Thursday that will prevent the layoff of 68 workers at a parts distribution center in California, the union said.

BMW had planned to lay off the workers at the end of the month and to reopen the facility with an outsourced, low-paid managerial, clerical and warehouse work force, the union said.

The Teamsters had protested at 50 BMW dealerships across the country this month in 11 states, including Michigan, California and New York.

Under a deal announced Thursday, the current contract will be extended for six months at BMW's parts distribution facility. BMW management agreed to work with the Teamsters to reach a "mutually acceptable solution that addresses long-term employment" for the current BMW work force in Ontario, Calif., the union said in a statement.

"This agreement shows what Teamsters can do when we stand together and fight back," said Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa. "Teamsters across the country, and unions that represent BMW and supply-chain workers across the globe, took part in numerous solidarity actions this summer in support of these workers. I am hopeful that the contract extension signals a new path for BMW and the Teamsters."

A BMW spokesman didn't immediately return a call seeking comment.

dshepardson@detroitnews.com

(202) 662-8735

© Copyright 2011 The Detroit News. All rights reserved.