Worksafe is proud to recognize the Fair Future at Tesla campaign – a group of Tesla workers who have been speaking up about their health and safety concerns for over a year and are currently fighting for union representation.

In February 2017, Tesla production worker Jose Moran published an op-ed detailing the troubling health and safety conditions at Tesla’s flagship manufacturing plant in Fremont, California. Jose described serious ergonomic hazards, excessive mandatory overtime, and chronic under-staffing. He described a management culture that prioritizes production over safety and management actions that discourage workers from reporting injuries.

“I often feel like I am working for a company of the future under working conditions of the past.”
– Jose Moran, Tesla Worker

In April 2017, Tesla workers requested copies of the company’s injury records. Worksafe analyzed these logs and found that the plant’s injury rate was considerably higher than the industry average. As the LA Times reported, the Fremont plant’s injury rate was worse than sawmills and slaughterhouses.

The company claims that injury rates have since improved, but a recent independent investigation raised more questions about the company’s record-keeping and reporting.

Meanwhile, too many workers continue to experience preventable injury as the plant struggles to meet ambitious production targets.

The workers involved in the campaign have been busy educating themselves and their fellow workers about their workplace rights, including their right to a safe workplace. Among other things, they are raising awareness about the chemical hazards workers are being exposed to on the factory floor.

These brave workers have put themselves on the line by telling an inconvenient truth about a popular company. We are so excited that some of them are with us tonight — they deserve our support and deep respect.

Worksafe urges Tesla to apply the same ingenuity and rigor to addressing safety concerns that it does to designing innovative electric vehicles. Tesla workers must have a meaningful voice in addressing health and safety issues.

For more information about the campaign, visit fairfutureattesla.org