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Elon Musk's Tesla Targeted By UAW And NLRB

September 1, 2017 | [Union Organizing, Labor And Employment](#)



**David J.
Pryzbylski**
Partner

On the heels of a [major election loss](#) at Nissan in Canton, Mississippi, the United Auto Workers (UAW) union has shifted focus to another car manufacturer in which it has no current foothold: Tesla. The UAW has been attempting to unionize workers at Tesla's since the beginning of this year, but it has been unsuccessful in garnering enough interest to petition a vote.

So what do you do if you are the UAW and you can't win over the employees? [File charges against the company](#) with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), of course, alleging the employer is unlawfully coercing employees to oppose the union.

The UAW and three employees filed NLRB charges in April against Tesla alleging the company has unlawfully "interrogated" employees about union activity and prevented union leafleting on the company's premises. The NLRB investigated and believes there may be some merit to the claims; the board issued a [formal complaint against the company](#) on Aug. 31.

Tesla issued the following statement vehemently denying the charges:

"As we approach Labor Day weekend, there's a certain irony in just how far the UAW has strayed from the original mission of the American labor movement, which once advocated so nobly for the rights of workers and is the reason we recognize this important holiday. Faced with declining membership, an overwhelming loss at a Nissan plant earlier this month, corruption charges that were recently leveled against union leaders who

misused UAW funds, and failure to gain traction with our employees, it's no surprise the union is feeling pressured to continue its publicity campaign against Tesla. For seven years, the UAW has used every tool in its playbook: misleading and outright false communications, unsolicited and unwelcomed visits to the homes of our employees, attempts to discredit Tesla publicly in the media, and now another tactic that has been used in every union campaign since the beginning of time – baseless [unfair labor practice] filings that are meant only to generate headlines. These allegations, which have been filed by the same contingent of union organizers who have been so outspoken with media, are entirely without merit. We will obviously be responding as part of the NLRB process.”

Very interesting development heading into Labor Day weekend. We'll track this case and keep you updated.