## **NEWS RELEASE** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 31, 2011



## Re: Taylor et. al. v. Turner Industries Group, LLC, et. Al (E.D. TX, Marshall Division)

Turner Industries Group, L.L.C. issues the following statement relative to the filing last week of a lawsuit in Texas federal court alleging claims of race harassment and discrimination against Turner Industries.

Turner Industries denies that it has unlawfully harassed or discriminated against any employees because of their race or any other criteria.

Roland Toups, Turner Industries' Chairman and CEO stated, "Make no mistake, Turner Industries stands for diversity and inclusion for all. Our record supports that. We intend to defend our company and the jobs of our 15,000 employees who are employed in various divisions of the company. We also assure our customers that our 50 years in the business and our commitments to them shall remain strong and true."

This suit was filed following a lengthy campaign by plaintiffs' attorneys from New York and Texas to encourage individuals to file claims against the company. Some of the individuals named in the suit have never worked for Turner Industries. Most are no longer employed with the company. Furthermore, many of the claimants who had filed charges raised claims during periods in which they were not even employed with the company. Many have also returned to work for Turner Industries several times. Records show that relatively few actually reported complaints of discrimination or harassment to the company.

Toups continued: "We have asked every Turner Industries employee to stay focused on safely performing their jobs. We also have asked them to support the company by making sure that our workplace is compliant with the company's equal employment opportunity and anti-harassment policies. If there is a problem, we want to know about it so that it can be addressed."

Last year, Turner Industries addressed racial claims arising at its Paris, Texas pipe fabrication facility. Most of the named plaintiffs in the current lawsuit never worked in Paris.

Turner Industries intends to aggressively defend the allegations in this suit as well as its record of providing excellent employment opportunities for residents nation-wide. We will remain committed to providing excellent jobs and employment opportunities for all qualified applicants without regard to race. That will never change.

Since 1961, Turner Industries Group, LLC has provided a single vendor solution in heavy industrial construction, maintenance, pipe, module and vessel fabrication, equipment, rigging, heavy hauling, and associated specialty services.

Privately owned by the Turner family, and headquartered in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the company has annual revenues in excess of \$1.6 billion, Turner Industries employs over 14,000 employees at its facilities across the gulf south and jobsites throughout the United States and abroad. More information is available at <u>www.turner-industries.com</u>.

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