

Janesville manufacturer that fled to Mexico is selling off its assets

Written by Wisconsin Examiner Republish
Friday, 19 August 2022 10:41

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“Everybody knew that it was a money grab. We told them it's not going to work. We're a custom shop — you just can't find people to do [the job].” – Tom Casey, president of the union at Hufcor's Janesville plant

MADISON - Less than a year after Hufcor closed its plant in Janesville and moved operations to Mexico, displacing 150 workers, the company's Mexico plans appear to be a bust and the manufacturer's assets in its one-time home state of Wisconsin are being liquidated.

On Thursday, Dane County Circuit Judge Frank Remington authorized the court-appointed receiver for Hufcor Inc. to sell or abandon company property and inventory in the state. Another hearing is planned in September to address claims against the company brought by former employees.

Hufcor, founded in 1900 as Hough Shade Corp., evolved to become a global maker of folding room dividers for private as well as public indoor spaces. In 2017, Hufcor was sold to OpenGate Capital, a Los Angeles private equity firm.

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