

GREETINGS FROM STEEL-TOWN

I know I'm going to have a blast visiting with people here at Netroots Nation. But I've already done what will likely be the coolest thing I do: a tour of a local steel plant. There were about 30 of us who took a bus out into the Monongahela Valley and all dolled up in hard hats, Nomex suits, and safety glasses to see how they make steel (Jane will be posting a photo of us, but I'm sure it won't give you the proper sense of just how gorgeous Jane looks in an industrial suit).

The video doesn't give you a full sense of the size and heat of the process. The ladle that appears in the early part of the video is maybe a story and a half high, all moved around on a giant pulley system.

There were a number of us who left saying, "next time I hear someone complaining about their job, I will tell them to shut up unless they're a steelworker." It is hot, there are tons of steps everywhere. But the whole trip was a fascinating way to understand something about Pittsburgh—and about where our cars and stuff comes from.