

September 1, 2020

Gary,

Let me start off by saying thank you to you and my Teamster family in Alaska for your continued support of our programs. It's hard to believe that this Labor Day will mark 15 years on the air. What started out as a far-fetched idea to add balance to the local area radio waves has grown into a powerful platform heard on more than 20 terrestrial radio signals, uncountable internet platforms like Progressive Voices, 50,000 podcast downloads monthly, and a weekly nationwide Free Speech TV television program.

To think that the station manager who ran the first station we were on said we would not last six months, that labor would never support radio, and if they did, it would not be for long. Well, 15 YEARS later we look back on the thousands of workers we interviewed and the stories we told, and we thank you for supporting us. The hundreds of politicians and candidates for office from the local school board to presidential candidates? We gave them a voice, thanks to you. We have had the chance to visit nearly every state in the nation to seek out and educate listeners about labor's rich and bloody history and labor's involvement in the Civil Rights movement, and it's all because of you. Day after day, week after week we have been able to work toward fulfilling that founding goal of adding balance to the airwaves and changing hearts and minds while doing it, and it's all because you have stuck by us through thick and thin.

I know I don't say it enough but Thank You. Without you, none of this is possible.

So this Labor Day weekend, please remember that because of you workers have a voice on the radio, on TV, on the internet, and on their smartphones, all because you have committed to supporting our work. Have a wonderful Labor Day weekend and please feel free to reach out anytime with your stories, your issues, and your passion. We are here for you, as you have been for us.

In Solidarity,
Rick Smith