

## ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Sen. Tom Begich State Capitol, Room 11 Juneau, AK 99801 907.465.3704 Rep. Zack Fields State Capitol, Room 24 Juneau, AK 99801 907.465.2647

Teresa Jackson AVP Network Services AT&T Alaska <u>TJ0969@att.com</u>

Dear Ms. Teresa Jackson,

As representatives in the district where AT&T's Anchorage headquarters is located, we are writing to express our strong support for your company negotiating in good faith with Teamsters Local 959 to finalize contract negotiations. Alaskans across the state rely on AT&T services, and Alaskans are strong supporters of our labor unions and brothers and sisters who work to provide critical services including telecommunications infrastructure. We urge you to come to the bargaining table and work expeditiously to approve a contract with meaningful wage and benefit improvements that meet needs identified by AT&T employees.

Failing to negotiate in good faith would create the risk of a strike, which would have serious negative implications for AT&T, for employees, and for Alaskans who depend on your infrastructure. In the unfortunate event that corporate intransigence precipitated a strike, we want you to be fully cognizant that our community will be very supportive of AT&T employees and their union who have put forward reasonable requests after enduring years of wage freezes, taking into account inflation. AT&T would be unable to fill the highly skilled jobs your employees perform, and service would suffer gravely as a result. A strike is to nobody's benefit, and the best way to avoid it is for your leadership to work now, in good faith, with the Teamsters to agree to a contract.

This is a great time to be working in telecommunications in Alaska, as we all work together to expand broadband and opportunities for commerce. AT&T has outstanding local employees and local leadership who understand that treating employees right is in everyone's interest. For generations, Alaska has been a place where we all pull together, recognizing that good middle class jobs are positive for employees and companies alike. Please work closely with the Teamsters to finalize a contract that corrects years of wage freezes for employees.

Sincerely,

Senator Tom Begich

**Representative Zack Fields**