

Session
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Rep.Calvin.Schrage@akleg.gov

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



Chair
Special Committee on Energy

REPRESENTATIVE CALVIN SCHRAGE

April 20, 2022

Via Electronic Submission
Teresa Jackson
Tj0969@exo.att.com
AT&T Alaska

Re: Alaska Teamster Contract Negotiations

Dear Ms. Jackson,

I have been following contract negotiations between your company and Teamsters Local 959 and am concerned that these efforts have stalled. As a legislator, I try not to involve myself in contract disputes of this nature but, in this instance, I feel the need to contact you.

AT&T operates one of the largest telecommunications companies in Alaska. The logistics of doing so are inherently challenging, given the vast area to be serviced and daunting weather conditions. AT&T employees, who live and work in Alaska, must face these conditions in order for your company to provide the telecommunication services that communities across our state depend on. This work often requires travel to remote areas, resulting in prolonged absences from home. The weather is frequently inclement to the point of being hazardous, contributing to the level of difficulty workers face in accomplishing their tasks.

In addition, the cost of living in Alaska is 37% higher than the national average, and this number can be drastically higher in more remote and rural communities. This highlights the urgent need for Alaskan employees to earn a fair and living wage that allows them to continue to live and perform their duties here in Alaska.

I hope that contract negotiations can resume very soon, that both parties fully engage in good faith throughout the process, and that a fair contract can be reached expeditiously. No one wants a service disruption. Your company plays an important role in this state and your employees, who keep the services provided operational and accessible, live and work here in Alaska. I encourage you to work this out for the sake of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Calvin Schrage".

Representative Calvin Schrage
House District 25
Rep.Calvin.Schrage@akleg.gov