

5/5/2022

To all parties involved in our contract negotiation:

As a lifelong Alaskan, I grew up admiring the courage, tenacity, and skills of all of the people who made our remote and wild state great. Among them were the men and women of Alascom. My father would tell me stories of their efforts that connected our communities together and provided a link to the outside world. That proud effort continues, and I am honored to count myself among the people who share this storied tradition.

The mental, physical, and environmental challenges that must be overcome are no less arduous now than they were back then. Our families rely on us to work hard, work safely, and return home to them. It takes a unique combination of skills and knowledge to operate in the harsh Alaska environment. Our teams of dedicated employees are those very people.

It is heartbreaking to hear that AT&T is unwilling to express their appreciation of these efforts with anything more than lip service. We worked through the COVID crisis, kept our network running, and continued to upgrade our infrastructure. The outfall of this crisis on our economy is a record inflation rate and our new contract must acknowledge and reflect this in a legitimate cost of living increase in line with our true value.

Our healthcare continues to skyrocket in cost while providing incredibly limited in-network coverage. For my small three-person family I must pay \$1086.00 monthly. Only two years ago this same coverage was \$770.00. This is a 41% increase in out-of-pocket cost, more than a quarter of my take-home pay. Our daughter was born last year, and we still have a \$15,000 bill to pay since we had no legitimate in-network options for many of the necessary services in Juneau, a doubling of our cost. We need a better plan that is reasonably priced, period.

I am proud to be part of this amazing team and know that I bring value through my ongoing efforts. I am immensely proud of the hard work and dedication of my teammates. I respectfully ask AT&T to honor their part of this relationship and put forward a contract offer that allows employees of Alascom to provide for their families and build a brighter future for their children.

Craig Brown