

May 18, 2017
M17-012

To: SPEEA Council

From: Joel Funfar (SPEEA Secretary), Zachary Wydick (T10),

Subject: **Presubmitted New Business – Support of CWA locals on Strike.**

Background

AT&T wireless workers announced they have issued the 72-hour notice to end their contract extension on April 28th, making a strike more likely than ever before for 21,000 wireless workers across 36 states and DC. Starting May 1, CWA has the option to call a strike at any time. Since February 11 of this year, AT&T workers have worked under a contract extension subject to termination and held up their promise to bargain in good faith with the expectation that executives will come to the table with proposals that protect family-supporting American jobs. However, after months of bargaining, frustration is higher than ever as workers and corporate executives remain far apart on key issues at the bargaining table. The company has refused to invest in the company's workforce, protect the basic promise of quality customer service, and end offshoring and outsourcing with a fair contract.

The 17,000 AT&T West wireline and DIRECTV workers have been working without a contract for more than a year, and workers have taken action against AT&T's illegal and unfair labor practices. Last month, AT&T West workers walked off the job in a one-day strike.

Despite being the largest telecom company in the country and bringing in nearly \$1 billion a month in profits, AT&T continues to overpromise and under deliver to workers, customers and core capabilities including:

- **Offshoring:** AT&T has eliminated more than 12,000 US call center jobs and **offshored thousands of other call center jobs** to Mexico, the Philippines, India, the Dominican Republic and other countries. As AT&T workers call on the company to end its endless offshoring, Congress is taking increased action with new bipartisan legislation to stop companies from offshoring call center jobs.
- **Outsourcing:** More than 60% of AT&T's branded retail stores are actually third-party dealers, known as "authorized retailers." Customers regularly complain of deceptive sales practices, and to date, AT&T has failed to hold dealers accountable to quality customer service. **AT&T workers are calling on corporate executives and shareholders to reverse this damaging trend** before the impact on the business and their jobs becomes severe.
- **Lack of investment in core business & infrastructure:** AT&T is failing to provide high-speed broadband to communities across the country, particularly in California. A recent UC Berkeley report highlighted AT&T's digital divide in California, leaving both rural and urban communities behind. A new report from **UC Berkeley's Haas Institute** for a Fair and Inclusive Society revealed 4 million California homes lack access to AT&T's high-speed broadband. Mayors and other elected officials from California and Nevada have **"slam[med] AT&T for slow internet, long phone outages."** Recent reports have found similar problems in **Cleveland's poorest neighborhoods.**
- **Corporate accountability:** In just the last couple months, over 12,000 callers couldn't reach 911 due to AT&T outages across the country. Over the last year, severe and regular phone outages across rural California prompted the CPUC to require phone companies to provide more real-time reporting on outages – changes pushed for by AT&T workers for years. Federal lawmakers are **demanding accountability.**

History:

IFPTE rents office space in DC from the CWA for IFPTE Headquarters and has already announced support for CWA. SPEEA has a long history of working with Washtech. CWA local 37083

Should a strike should occur, any additional assistance from SPEEA would be appreciated.
Ways members could help those on strike.

- 1) Calling AT&T.
- 2) Displaying signs of support in their vehicles.
- 3) Support on picket lines or any rallies.
- 4) Strike Fund assistance
- 5) Dropping Food off at Picket lines, Union Halls, or Labor food banks.

Websites: <https://www.cwa-union.org/news/releases/att-wireless-workers-fire-warning-shot-give-72-hour-notice-terminate-contract>

https://actionnetwork.org/letters/send-a-message-to-ceo-stephenson?source=workingfamilies&link_id=2&can_id=1444e65007c45363df6faf7cc708d7a4&email_referrer=city-council-introduces-key-ff15-legislation-this-is-how-you-can-help-3-3&email_subject=standing-with-att-workers

Way to find picket sites.

https://actionnetwork.org/event_campaigns/strike-at-att-mobility?source=workingfamilies&link_id=1&can_id=1444e65007c45363df6faf7cc708d7a4&email_referrer=city-council-introduces-key-ff15-legislation-this-is-how-you-can-help-3-3&email_subject=standing-with-att-workers

We SPEEA members who went through our strike in 2000, remember the way the CWA and others unions were there for us during our strike.

Motion

It is moved that: **THE SPEEA COUNCIL REQUESTS THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SUPPORT STRIKING CWA MEMBERS WITH \$3,000 OR MORE.**

IT IS FURTHER MOVED THAT WE PUBLICIZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPEEA MEMBERS TO SUPPORT CWA MEMBERS IN VARIOUS WAYS SO THE MEMBERSHIP CAN SHOW SOLIDARITY.
