

September 12, 2007

Jerri Denton, Chief Negotiator
Office of Administration/Div of Personnel
430 Truman Building, 301 West High Street
Post Office Box 388
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Ms. Denton:

I am in receipt of your September 4, 2007 letter and comprehensive counter proposal to the Union's proposal to renew the current agreement for another three years.

To say that I was surprised to see the State's counter-proposal would be an understatement. As you recall, we met in your office at the Truman Building on July 6, 2007 to discuss both party's goals and intentions in negotiating a new agreement to replace the current agreement set to expire on September 30, 2007. At that time the Union expressed our interest in renewing the current agreement with little or no changes. You responded with similar interest. Your position was reiterated in two subsequent e-mails sent to CWA Local 6355 Organizing Coordinator Richard von Glahn.

For the State of Missouri to now, less than a month from the expiration of the agreement, change their position amounts to nothing less than bargaining in bad faith. It is clear by your counter-proposal that your intention is to completely destroy the bargaining relationship that has existed, for over twenty years, between the workers in the Department of Social Services and the State of Missouri.

The Communications Workers of America and its members are prepared to stand up for the rights of public workers in Missouri and negotiate an agreement that is in the best interest of workers and the citizens of this state and fight back against any attempt to dismantle language that has provided benefits such as health and safety and leave time prior to

Military activation to be replaced with language that attacks immigrant workers.

Please provide the dates and times you are available to meet with the Union's committee of sixteen workers and staff of CWA to reach an agreement prior to your imposition of a deadline of November 1, 2007.

Sincerely,

Tom Newport
District Organizing Coordinator

cc: Richard von Glahn
Sharon Johnson