

Bruce Chattin
Executive Director
Washington Aggregates & Concrete Association
22223 7th Avenue South
Des Moines, WA 98198

Rick Hicks, Joint Council #28 - President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
14675 Interurban Avenue South
Tukwila, WA 98168

We are writing on behalf of the cities, businesses, and ultimately individuals throughout the region who are impacted by the concrete strike.

We recognize the importance of these negotiations to our region and the parties involved, businesses represented by the Washington Aggregates & Concrete Association (“the Association”) and employees represented by Teamsters Local 174. We encourage the Association, through its chief negotiator Charlie Oliver (Gary Merlino Construction) and the Teamsters, through its chief negotiator, Rick Hicks (Joint Council #28) to reengage in negotiations.

We strongly respect the right to bargain, and we encourage the parties to return to the negotiating table as soon as possible. We also encourage your use of a mediator in this process. We are confident that the parties, with unbiased aid, can come together in good faith for a mutually acceptable fair agreement.

As the strike has continued, the regional implications toward a recovery are being felt. Many jurisdictions, businesses, and organizations that have started to recover are impacted by this work stoppage. Many are looking at alternative ways to continue capital projects that are vital to our growing communities. These projects be they wastewater treatment upgrades, transportation, other infrastructure projects, or housing; which is in desperate need at all areas of the affordability spectrum, have been impacted in their construction.

As these projects slow, shut down, or are reevaluated the impact of your actions will continue to impact many more in our region. It is in all our shared interests to get back to work building these projects which support your businesses and employment.

We understand that the Teamsters 174 workers are exercising all their rights to achieve a fair contract. While contract negotiations can be challenging, we fully support good faith bargaining from both parties to reach a fair agreement.

We encourage you to get back to the bargaining table. We live in an amazing region and we know that our continued recovery relies on all of us to work together.