

May 20, 2009

Dear CWA Local 1032 Member,

As you probably know, the Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) did not enjoin the May furloughs. In particular, PERC did not adequately consider whether the State is obligated to negotiate over the decision to reduce our salaries through furloughs. We will ask the appellate court to tell PERC that it must make an independent decision on this issue.

We are also filing appeals with the Civil Service Commission, claiming that the way the furloughs are being carried out violates Civil Service rules and statutory layoff and seniority rights. The Appellate Court raised concerns about these very issues when it issued the stay of staggered furloughs and now the exemptions are doing the same. We are also arguing that the furloughs are being conducted in bad faith since in many instances they realize no savings for the State.

Economic conditions in New Jersey have deteriorated significantly. The upcoming budget now has a \$9 billion deficit. We are very concerned about the cuts to services and to our jobs. The Governor will be announcing another round of cuts to the Fiscal Year 2010 budget within a few days, including additional cuts to the Homestead Rebate program.

We are still in discussions with the Corzine Administration and we are still trying to work out an agreement that preserves the integrity of the Contract and that protects our members from layoffs. The discussions are not going well, but we will continue to try to reach an agreement.

We are also in discussions with the Legislature about the Budget and we are targeting particular Legislators to get help protect our members from budget cuts. Our members who live in the districts of these Legislators will be getting special letters that instruct them how to make "patch through" calls to those Legislators.

We know that this is a very difficult time for our members. We are working every day to protect our jobs and standard of living and we will keep you informed as matters progress.

In Solidarity,

Patrick Kavanagh