



LOCAL 2-21 C.A.T. Letter

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By now most of you heard that **negotiations have been put on hold until at least September 7th**. We were informed of this yesterday by our District Director Mike Bolton while we were on our conference call with all the locals belonging to the NewPage Council. This "time out" from negotiating is corporate wide, not just with us here in Escanaba. George Martin explained to Jon Geenen that this time was needed to get things in order at the top. He needs to reassign some work duties as well as to appoint a new vice president of Human Resources being Mike Edicola was fired at the same time Suwyn was let go. I want to emphasize that September 7th is the absolute earliest date we could return to negotiations but more realistically it will be toward the end of September before we get back to the table.

As I reported in the last CAT letter; when we last met with the company on August 2nd, we presented them with a proposal that included all of the (bigger) open items on our agenda as well as on theirs. If you remember, I explained this was presented as a package deal to try to get things buttoned up. At the end of the day the company asked for additional time to consider the proposal with the promise (through the mediator) of getting an answer within the following 2 days. I made a commitment to all of you that I would send out a CAT letter explaining their answer (as soon as we got one) as well as to include a copy of our proposal we presented to them (see back of this sheet).

Obviously the answer never came until a week later (yesterday) when we were told negotiations were put on hold. I have a lot to say about this but none of it would be constructive so I'll keep it to myself.....or at least not put it in writing. I just hope that when we finally do return to the table we are treated differently than we have been in the past. I hope by Jon Geenen allowing them time to get their stuff together, they will show an ounce of respect to us when we get back together.....but I won't hold my breath.

Thank you for your support.
In Solidarity,



Bryon Branstrom