

Communications
Workers of America
AFL-CIO District 9

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Tony Bixler
Vice President



January 26, 2004

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
1st Floor State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

We at CWA are about to embark on our triennial round of collective bargaining with SBC. These talks will be taking place in four regions throughout the country and the outcome will affect the lives and living standards of 45,000 of our members and their families in California and Hawaii. At this point the outlook is rocky in spite of their ongoing health and profitability, SBC is proposing enormous shifting of health care costs to our members and our retirees who can least afford the burden. I've attached a copy of letters SBC has sent our retirees informing them of their unilateral plan reduce the benefits they earned and were promised.

SBC doesn't seem to grasp that cost shifting adds to the long-term problem. We are determined to work towards real solutions to this national problem, not band-aids, and we will need your help and support.

Our contract for California and Nevada expires April 1, 2004 and I will keep you informed on the issues as they continue to develop. Please let me know we can count on you as we have in the past.

Sincerely,

Tony Bixler, Vice President
CWA District Nine

TB/mks

TONY BIXLER
Vice President
CWA District 9