



2019 Forest Industry Bargaining

USW LOCAL 1-1937 UPDATE

2019 FORESTRY BARGAINING UPDATE #6 – June 4, 2019

Coast Bargaining Committee - News Release

Recently Western Forest Products put out a statement to our members working in WFP operations, alleging that statements made by the USW in our Bargaining Update #5 (May 31) were false. The Union wishes to advise our members that nothing could be further from the truth.

Here are the Facts:

USW Bulletin #5 Statement: "...massive concessions including the elimination of the pension plan..."

Fact: WFP's stated demand was that the member's pension plan would be replaced with a Registered Savings Plan (RSP). The fact is you don't just start a new RSP for new employees without wrapping up the current Pension Plan and without all members suffering the corresponding negative impacts of a plan windup. Everyone knows that an RSP managed by each employee in no way compares to the well managed Pension Plan we have in the forest industry. Any demand to get out of our Pension Plan is, in fact, eliminating the Pension Plan.

USW Bulletin #5 Statement: "...erosion of seniority rights..."

Fact: WFP says they didn't make a demand on this issue but that is completely false. They gave notice to cancel all local agreements the vast majority of which contain seniority rights that they claim would be replaced by a new policy that they will impose. Bottom line, WFP is proposing to take away WFP members seniority rights.

USW Bulletin #5 Statement: "...cutting benefits..."

Fact: WFP is proposing to reduce contributions to the Long Term Disability Plan which eliminates the right to improve the benefit which the Union is proposing. The USW wants to extend LTD coverage to up to the age of 65 (currently 60) as members are working longer and deserve this benefit after age 60. We also want to improve the monthly LTD benefit with a cost of living adjustment every three years and WFP is against this. WFP wants their

contribution rate reduced and end the ability to increase the benefit. They also proposed to change our benefit carrier which would end our trusteed plan which has negative implications for members who benefit from having Union Trustees administer the plan. The Unions experience in non-trusteed benefits is that members rights are lost and the devils in the details. If WFP were successful in this proposal it clearly is cutting benefits.

USW Statement: “...including a meager below the cost of living 2 percent annually...”

Fact: The cost of living is higher than 2% and WFP’s wage proposals only exceed 2% in the fifth year (by .5%) of a long-term agreement the members have clearly indicated they don’t want. They also have proposed significantly cutting wages for new employees who would not get to the regular rate of pay until a long phase-in period is achieved. On top of that WFP gave notice to cancel all local agreements and premium practices in their operations which take away hundreds of thousands of dollars from our members. These below cost of living increases, reduced entry rates, and wage premium take-a-ways are completely unacceptable.

WE TRUST OUR MEMBERS KNOW THE FACTS AND WILL LOOK POORLY ON WFP’S FALSE CLAIMS REGARDING THE ACCURATE STATEMENTS MADE IN THE UNIONS BULLETIN #5



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