

To Capitol Hill and Business News Media:

The following news release was recently issued in South Carolina to protest mass jobs losses in the state in the past year. Of course, AT&T had promised significant jobs increases if the South Carolina General Assembly approved a statewide video franchise law, which it did nearly two years ago. The result? Since then, according to CWA, more than 300 jobs have been lost in South Carolina. In District 3, a nine-state area that includes Tennessee, AT&T has cut more than 1,500 jobs, according to CWA.

Of course, AT&T is making the same bold statements in Tennessee: if the General Assembly will approve statewide video franchising, it will result in many new jobs and hundreds of millions of investment.

The following was issued in South Carolina Nov. 26 to announce a protest by the Communications Workers of America:

SC Job Losses Target of Columbia Info Picket

Below is the text of the media advisory from the Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 3706 announcing the Columbia picket staged on Monday, Nov. 26.

There will be an informational picket at 400 Laurel Street (corner of Laurel and Huger) in front of the AT&T Building, Monday, November 26 from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM, sponsored by Communications Workers of America (CWA). CWA members from several states will be addressing workplace concerns with AT&T including job losses, unfair sales quotas, temporary employees and other issues.

For years the CWA and BellSouth have had a good working relationship. Although from time to time we have had our differences, we were able to work through our issues while at the same time continuing to move the business forward and secure jobs for our members.

Last year AT&T came to us and asked that we support the merger with BellSouth making the New ATT the largest telecommunication company in the world. We agreed, and our members supported this merger. In late December 2006 the merger was complete. The new AT&T was formed.

It is now apparent the new AT&T is not interested in continuing the previous relationship we had with BellSouth. In less than one year AT&T has moved our jobs out of state. The Large Business Department has moved to four other states. The Fleet Center has moved to Saint Louis, MO. The Fraud Center is closing in December. Large Business customer's accounts are now being handled in four other states.

We have lost over 300 jobs in South Carolina in less than one year.

In our residential Consumer Service Center, our Sales Associates are denied Family Medical Leave time. They have been on mandatory 2 hour overtime everyday for the past 3 years. They are disciplined everyday and terminated for unrealistic sales quotas. The

Consumer Service Center has become a revolving door to the unemployment line. There is no respect for the employees our members and this must stop.

AT&T's treatment of its employees not only impacts workers, their families and the economy of our state, but reduces the quality of service consumers receive from the company.

This informational Picket line is to make our legislators and our customers know what is happening to our members since the merger.

South Carolina is not the only state with a picket line up today. Several states are picketing, as the CWA continues to face lost jobs everyday at AT&T.

District 3 includes nine states, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Louisiana, Florida, Kentucky, and Alabama. AT&T has removed a total of 1519 jobs in District 3 in less than one year.