



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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Hon. John Barrasso, Chairman
Environment & Public Works Committee
United States Senate
410 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Tom Carper, Ranking Member
Environment & Public Works Committee
United States Senate
456 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso & Ranking Senator Carper:

As the Chair and Ranking Member of the Environment & Public Works Committee, and having direct jurisdiction over the federally owned utility, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), we are again writing to follow up on our January 30th letter to the Subcommittee on Clean Air & Nuclear Safety, and our April 28th letter regarding the TVA's ongoing efforts to outsource hundreds of IT jobs, some which will likely be sent overseas. As we stated in our previous letters, the impacted workers are represented by the Engineering Association (EA)/IFPTE Local 1937.

This letter is to update you on TVA's progress in outsourcing these jobs. First of all, the latest group of 38 workers got their RIF notices this past Friday. These workers are part of the second round of layoffs, and are on top of the 62 workers who have received RIF notices since June. These notices are going out to the workers despite the best efforts of the union to work with the TVA on their latest Contract Decision Model (CDM). In an ideal world, the CDM is intended to provide for a fair, transparent and reasoned process to determine whether to privatize TVA federal functions or not.

Sadly, we have reached a point where TVA has apparently decided that they will not only continue with the privatization of these jobs, they will do so by violating their own CDM process, and by frustrating the workers' ability to even compete for their own jobs. Like the first CDM dealing with the IT job outsourcing, the second CDM for the next group of workers to be sent packing lacks transparency and accountability. For example, at every turn, TVA refuses to provide the union the appropriate documentation and metrics necessary for us to be able to provide a competitive bid for the work. TVA is also blatantly blocking our ability to appeal their CDM process and decision, which is in direct violation of their own CDM process. They are doing so, apparently, to simply 'check the box' of fulfilling their obligation to work with the union as they continue to achieve their predetermined goal of handing these functions over to the four IT firms. These firms include Capgemini, Accenture and CGI, all companies that have their headquarters based outside of the United States and are well-known IT outsourcing firms whose business model is founded on offshoring as many IT jobs as possible to other nations. Right now our members who are slated to lose their jobs to these firms are training their replacements, some who are H-1B visa holders, which is an interesting coincidence in that the offshoring business model that these companies employ are heavily dependent on the use of H-1B visas. This is the 'knowledge transfer' part of the off-shoring business model employed by TVA's IT contractors.

As the committee having direct jurisdiction over TVA, we are asking once again that you finally exercise jurisdiction over the TVA by investigating an outsourcing process that lacks transparency; was done in violation of TVA's own internal contracting processes; has locked the union out of the key information and metrics necessary to compete for the work; will be more costly than simply leaving the work in-house, and; is in violation of TVA's own mission of providing economic boom to the vast Tennessee Valley community.

At a time when Congress is now negotiating the details of fourth COVID relief package, on top of previous packages that allocated trillions upon trillions of dollars aimed at preserving American jobs during this pandemic, it is alarming that TVA, a federal government entity, is permitted to add to our historic unemployment numbers by laying off hundreds of workers with little to no congressional oversight.

IFPTE continues to urge your committee to investigate this matter, and ask that you both, in bipartisan fashion, work with leadership to add language in the next COVID-19 relief bill preventing TVA from outsourcing these jobs. Unlike saving other American jobs, saving these will not cost taxpayers a dime.

Thank you and we look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Paul Shearon,
President



Matthew Biggs,
Secretary-Treasurer/
Legislative Director



Gay Henson,
EA/Local 1937 President/
Eastern Federal Area Vice President

Cc: Hon. Donald Trump, President of the United States