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January 29, 2016



## House of Representatives COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG

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The Honorable Tom Wolf  
Room 225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on a situation that is of grave concern to me. As you may know, Allegheny Technologies Incorporated (ATI) has been engaged in an ongoing labor dispute affecting thousands of employees at their facilities, several of which are located in western Pennsylvania.

Negotiations between the United Steelworkers of America (USW) and ATI broke down this summer after the company presented a "last, best and final" offer that demanded concessions from workers on items such as health care benefits, outsourcing of jobs, and worker scheduling. After providing this ultimatum, ATI locked out workers at these facilities beginning August 15, 2015.

Subsequently, the USW filed a grievance with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) regarding certain ATI actions. Recently, the NLRB found reason to investigate ATI's efforts to force workers to accept concessions. While I am hopeful that this is a positive step in resolving the dispute, it is my concern that this process could take several months.

Since August, these workers have been relying on state unemployment compensation to cover daily expenses. In addition, they also lost their health insurance in November and must now pay their medical expenses out-of-pocket. Since many of these workers have nearly exhausted their state unemployment benefits, their financial situation is now reaching a crisis point.

My reason for writing you is twofold. First, as a former owner of a successful, employee-friendly business, you have first-hand experience in negotiating labor disputes. As such, I encourage you to consider becoming personally involved in the current negotiations to resolve this dispute. Finally, on behalf of these men and women, I ask you to reach out to the USW and these workers to determine whether they qualify for any state or federal assistance programs that would benefit them during this difficult period.

Thank you in advance for consideration of this request. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue in further detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph A. Petrarca".

Joseph A. Petrarca  
State Representative  
55<sup>th</sup> Legislative District