Via Fax

April 18, 2002

The Honorable Fritz Hollings
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hollings:

Although CWA has reached agreement for a new contract with AT&T, I want to advise you of circumstances that certainly involved abuse of our visa system as well as raising national security concerns.

Early in March, we learned that AT&T had contracted to hire and train several thousand Indian nationals who are in the U.S. on what we believe to be H-1B Visas. They were being trained to do the work of AT&T's unionized employees in the event of a strike. The only public comment the company offered was: "They are all in the U.S. legally." Senator Kennedy is inquiring into this.

Beyond that, AT&T made plans, in the event of a strike, to move its engineering and maintenance of the global network to India. The ability to monitor the U.S. network would reside in India with Indian nationals.

Today, AT&T management told me that because of the agreement on a new contract, they were abandoning this program and terminating all contracts.

As one who is so concerned about the security of our telecommunications facility, I felt you would want to know about this. Clearly, if it suited their purposes, AT&T management could reintroduce the idea of moving this critical work anywhere in the world.

We would be pleased to discuss this further with you.

Sincerely,

Morton Bahr
President

cc: The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy