

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY
SENATOR, 63RD DISTRICT

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July 12, 2013

Mr. Rich Doggett
East Zone Vice President
Rural/Metro Corporation
481 William L. Gaiter Parkway
Buffalo, New York 14215

Dear Mr. Doggett:

I write to express my concerns with the current contract dispute between Rural/Metro and Teamsters local 375. Frankly, I believe those in the business of saving lives deserve a living wage. They certainly deserve more than \$10 an hour, and there's no question that they earn it. Efforts must be taken to pay employees fairly for the vital services they provide and, at the very least, to meet the living-wage standards of the City of Buffalo.

I am asking the company to come to the table and negotiate in good faith to avoid a potential strike. By not negotiating in good faith and by refusing to pay employees a fair wage, the company may put thousands of Western New Yorkers in harm's way without the essential emergency-response services they need.

The dedicated men and women who answer the dangerous calls and make those split-second, life-saving decisions provide an invaluable service to our community. They deserve compensation commensurate with the critical work they perform. I urge Rural/Metro to reconsider their position and offer the hardworking paramedics and medical technicians, the backbone of the emergency-response business, the dignity of a living wage they deserve.

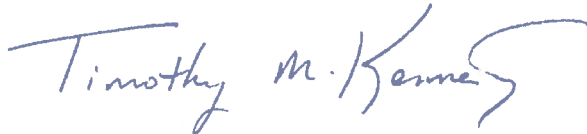
As you know, Rural/Metro Medical Services of Western New York is one of the largest divisions across the 21 states in which the Arizona-based company operates. As one of the largest geographic areas that the company serves, Rural/Metro should be increasing its investment in its Western New York workforce, not diminishing it.

While I understand the fiscal realities, I believe it is essential that a company, which prides itself on protecting lives in the communities it serves, provide adequate health care benefits for its employees, who work on the front lines of our health care system. Rural/Metro should offer fair

benefits and avoid this attack on the hardworking men and women who work for the company – not to mention, the thousands of Western New Yorkers who depend on them in an emergency.

Again, I urge you to consider a fair offer which reflects the important work these brave and dedicated first-responders provide our community every day. Thank you for your time and attention. If I can be helpful in your efforts to reach an agreement on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy M. Kennedy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Timothy M. Kennedy
New York State Senator, 63rd District

CC: Kevin Drysdale, President, Teamsters Union Local 375.
Jay Smith, General Manager, Rural/Metro Medical Services of WNY