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Progress Amid Broken Promises: Teamsters Keep Pressure on United

Negotiations between the Teamsters and United Airlines resumed this week in Los Angeles, where the committee remained focused on securing meaningful improvements and enforceable language. Despite the company's continued attempts to delay, the committee's persistence at the table continues to drive progress for members.

At the beginning of the week, the committee received commitments from the highest level of company leadership to finally begin clearing the backlog of System Board of Adjustment (SBA) termination cases — an issue the committee has been pressing for months. This response is long overdue, and the committee is prepared to move quickly to ensure follow-through.

Subcommittee discussions centered on Articles 2 (Definitions), 12 (Field Trips), and 17 (Overtime), resulting in a pass from the company on these articles along with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning trades. The full committee voted to accept the pass and MOU — an outcome that locks in critical improvements while limiting the company's overreach.

The company also initiated a discussion on the current shortage of aircraft inspectors and the need to maintain enough qualified personnel to perform Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) and Required Inspection Items (RII) inspections. The committee will continue to monitor these issues closely to ensure that safety and quality standards are not compromised.

Despite this progress, the committee was left deeply frustrated again by the last day of the session. After repeated assurances throughout the week that a discussion on scope would take place, the company informed the committee at the last minute that it would not be addressing the issue during this round of negotiations. This reversal only underscored an ongoing pattern of broken promises and unwillingness to bargain in good faith.

“United's decision to back away from a promised discussion on scope is unacceptable,” said Clacy Griswold, Chair of the United Airlines Teamsters National Negotiating Committee. “Our

members expect real dialogue — not excuses. If the company thinks it can stall its way to a deal, it's badly mistaken.”

United's refusal to even engage on one of the most critical subjects in these negotiations is an insult to every technician waiting for real progress. The company leadership's unwillingness to have the conversation they committed to having speaks volumes about their approach to these talks: delay, deflect, and deny.

United's broken promise this week only reinforced why members rallied in Chicago last week — because enough is enough. That same solidarity and determination shown on the ground are the foundation of every conversation at the table and will continue to drive this fight forward until United delivers real progress.

Negotiations will continue in Newark on November 11.