



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

REGION 16
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November 16, 2021

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Re: TForce Freight
Case 16-CA-279741

DEAR MR. WATSKY, MR. COLEMAN:

The Region has carefully considered the charge alleging that TFORCE FREIGHT violated the National Labor Relations Act. As explained below, I have decided that further proceedings on the charge should be handled in accordance with the deferral policy of the National Labor Relations Board as set forth in *Collyer Insulated Wire*, 192 NLRB 837 (1971), and *United Technologies Corp.*, 268 NLRB 557 (1984). This letter explains that deferral policy, the reasons for my decision to defer further processing of the charge, and the Charging Party's right to appeal my decision.

Deferral Policy: The Board's deferral policy provides that the Board will postpone making a final determination on a charge when a grievance involving the same issue can be processed under the grievance/arbitration provision of the applicable contract. This policy is partially based on the preference that the parties use their contractual grievance procedure to achieve a prompt, fair, and effective settlement of their disputes. Therefore, if an employer agrees to waive contractual time limits and process the related grievance through arbitration if necessary, the Board's Regional Office will defer the charge.

Decision to Defer: Based on our investigation, I am deferring further proceedings on the charge in this matter to the grievance/arbitration process for the following reasons:

1. The Employer and TEAMSTERS TFORCE FREIGHT NATIONAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE (ON BEHALF OF LOCAL TEAMSTERS UNIONS NATIONWIDE) have a collective-bargaining agreement currently in effect that provides for final and binding arbitration.

2. The allegation that the Employer violated Section 8(a)(5) and (1) of the Act by unilaterally implementing a change to the speed governors in the trucks driven by bargaining unit employees thereby reducing the speed cap from 68 mph to 65 mph without bargaining with the Union is encompassed by the terms of the collective-bargaining agreement.

3. The Employer is willing to process a grievance concerning the issues in the charge, and will arbitrate the grievance if necessary. The Employer has also agreed to waive any time limitations in order to ensure that the arbitrator addresses the merits of the dispute.

4. Since the issues in the charge appear to be covered by provisions of the collective-bargaining agreement, it is likely that the issues may be resolved through the grievance/arbitration procedure.

Further Processing of the Charge: As explained below, while the charge is deferred, the Regional office will monitor the processing of the grievance and, under certain circumstances, will resume processing of the charge.

Charging Party's Obligation: Under the Board's *Collyer* deferral policy, the Charging Party has an affirmative obligation to file a grievance, if a grievance has not already been filed. If the Charging Party fails either to promptly submit the grievance to the grievance/arbitration process or declines to have the grievance arbitrated if it is not resolved, I may dismiss the charge.

Charged Party's Conduct: If the Charged Party prevents or impedes resolution of the grievance, raises a defense that the grievance is untimely filed, or refuses to arbitrate the grievance, I will revoke deferral and resume processing of the charge.

Monitoring the Dispute: Approximately every 90 days, the Regional Office will ask the parties about the status of this dispute to determine if the dispute has been resolved and if continued deferral is appropriate. However, at any time, a party may present evidence and request dismissal of the charge, continued deferral of the charge, or issuance of a complaint.

Notice to Arbitrator Form: If the grievance is submitted to an arbitrator, please sign and submit to the arbitrator the enclosed "Notice to Arbitrator" form to ensure that the Region receives a copy of an arbitration award when the arbitrator sends the award to the parties.

Review of Arbitrator's Award or Settlement: If the grievance is arbitrated or settled, the Charging Party may ask the Board to review the arbitrator's award or settlement. The request must be in writing and addressed to me. If the request concerns an arbitrator's award, the request should analyze whether the arbitration process was fair and regular, whether the unfair labor practice allegations in the charge were considered by the arbitrator, and whether the award is consistent with the Act. Further guidance on

this review is provided in *Spielberg Manufacturing Company*, 112 NLRB 1080 (1955) and *Olin Corp.*, 268 NLRB 573 (1984). If the request concerns a grievance settlement, see *Alpha Beta*, 273 NLRB 1546 (1985). These Board decisions are available on our website, www.nlr.gov.

Change in Standards if Parties Agree to Submit Statutory Issue to Arbitrator: If during the processing of the grievance the parties agree to authorize the arbitrator to decide the statutory issue, please advise me in writing.

Charging Party's Right to Appeal: The Charging Party may appeal my decision to the General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, through the Office of Appeals.

Means of Filing: You must file your appeal electronically or provide a written statement explaining why electronic submission is not possible or feasible. Written instructions for the NLRB's E-Filing system and the Terms and Conditions of the NLRB's E-Filing policy are available at www.nlr.gov. See [User Guide](#). A video demonstration which provides [step-by-step instructions](#) and frequently asked questions are also available at www.nlr.gov. If you require additional assistance with E-Filing, please contact e-Filing@nlrb.gov.

You are encouraged to also submit a complete statement of the facts and reasons why you believe my decision was incorrect. If you cannot file electronically, please send the appeal and your written explanation of why you cannot file electronically to the **General Counsel** at the **National Labor Relations Board, Attn: Office of Appeals, 1015 Half Street SE, Washington, DC 20570-0001**. Unless filed electronically, a copy of the appeal should also be sent to me.

The appeal MAY NOT be filed by fax or email. The Office of Appeals will not process faxed or emailed appeals.

Appeal Due Date: The appeal is due on **November 30, 2021**. If the appeal is filed electronically, the transmission of the entire document through the Agency's website must be completed **no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time** on the due date. If filing by mail or by delivery service an appeal will be found to be timely filed if it is postmarked or given to a delivery service no later than November 29, 2021. **If an appeal is postmarked or given to a delivery service on the due date, it will be rejected as untimely.** If hand delivered, an appeal must be received by the General Counsel in Washington D.C. by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the appeal due date. If an appeal is not submitted in accordance with this paragraph, it will be rejected.

Extension of Time to File Appeal: The General Counsel may allow additional time to file the appeal if the Charging Party provides a good reason for doing so and the request for an extension of time is **received on or before November 30, 2021**. The request may be filed electronically through the *E-File Documents* link on our website www.nlr.gov, by fax to (202)273-4283, by mail, or by delivery service. The General Counsel will not consider any request for an extension of time to file an appeal received after November 30, 2021, **even if it is**

postmarked or given to the delivery service before the due date. Unless filed electronically, a copy of the extension of time should also be sent to me.

Confidentiality: We will not honor requests to limit our use of appeal statements or evidence. Upon a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) by a party during the processing of an appeal, the Agency's FOIA Branch discloses appeal statements, redacted for personal privacy, confidential source protection, or other applicable FOIA exemptions. In the event the appeal is sustained, any statement or material submitted may be introduced as evidence at a hearing before an administrative law judge. However, certain evidence produced at a hearing may be protected from public disclosure by demonstrated claims of confidentiality.

Very truly yours,



TIMOTHY L. WATSON
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Enclosures

cc: TEAMSTERS TFORCE FREIGHT
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