



American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

1300 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

March 27, 2000

Pete,

William Burrus
Executive Vice President
(202) 842-4246

This is in further response to our exchange of correspondence on the subject of the employer's right to require signatures of a union representative in the REDRESS mediation program. The use of a signature block on the REDRESS settlement form and the instructions issued for its completion (enclosed) contemplates the signature of a **union representative**. The designation of Stewards pursuant to Article 17 of the collective bargaining agreement is for the purpose of "investigating, presenting and adjusting grievances." This is the purpose of their designation and the limit of their authority. Stewards play no role in the resolution of complaints referred to the REDRESS program.

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The fact that an individual serves as a union Steward and also represents a specific employee whose complaint is the subject of REDRESS review does not entitle the Steward to act on behalf of the union in the REDRESS process. By letter of June 16, 1999 I notified your office that APWU Stewards are not authorized by the union to serve as Stewards in the REDRESS mediation program, unless specifically authorized in writing by the local president. This is official notice that the signature of an APWU Steward in the REDRESS mediation program who has not been duly authorized as described above does not represent the decision of the American Postal Workers Union.

Sincerely,

William Burrus
Executive Vice President

Mr. Peter Sgro, Manager
Contract Administration
475 L' Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260

WB:rb