

February 3, 2010

TO: All Department of Corrections WFSE/AFSCME Bargaining Unit Members
FROM: Your Department of Corrections Supplemental Bargaining Team
SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF THE 2009-2011 SUPPLEMENTAL TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

As you know, negotiations were concluded on the 2009-2011 Department of Corrections Supplemental Bargaining Agreement on the afternoon of Tuesday, February 2, 2010.

Negotiations began November 30, 2009. Given the improvements in this supplemental, the economic climate and the uncertain future, your Department of Corrections Supplemental Bargaining Team recommends **support** for this agreement.

The Supplemental Agreement reflects improvements in working conditions on nine (9) articles of the current 2009-2011 WFSE/AFSCME General Government agreement and two (2) new memorandums of understanding between the Department of Corrections and Washington Federation of State Employees Bargaining Unit Members. A summary of the tentative agreement is enclosed in this mailing giving a brief synopsis of the changes and a copy of the new articles for additional review. The changes occur in the following articles: Bid, Hiring and Appointments, Hours of Work, Overtime, Vacations (Scheduling), Safety and Health, Uniforms, Tools and Equipment, Meals, Employee Rights, and addresses a name change for community corrections officers. Please note that the supplemental language is underlined in the relevant articles.

Unfortunately, the state is dealing with severe economic issues and, therefore, compensation issues will be addressed in the upcoming Master Agreement Negotiations. Items discussed during these supplemental negotiations, which are unresolved, are also listed in the summary document and will be subjects for the next supplemental cycle, which will begin again in March of this year.

One of the specific reasons your bargaining committee elected to settle these supplemental talks at this time is the unusual opportunity that we had with new supplemental talks scheduled to begin within weeks. This enabled us to take the agreements we had already signed off on and implement them immediately, and then turn right around and present all of the unsettled issues for a new supplemental negotiation. That was the decision we made and we, in turn, request your support for this strategy.

It is very important that you vote—either to ratify the contract or reject the contract. In the event the contract is rejected, we will return to the table for further negotiations.

A copy of the entire tentative agreement will be enclosed in this mailing. A copy is on the WFSE website (www.wfse.org). There may also be contract information meetings in your area; watch for details.

After you have reviewed the information on the new agreement, we are sure you will agree that we made good progress in negotiations and will exercise your right to vote and ratify the agreement.

A ballot and instructions for completion and mailing will be sent under separate cover.