



Majority Leader Erin Murphy

District 64

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July 20th, 2026

Chairman Rick Greene,
Chisago County Board of Commissioners
313 North Main Street, Room 239
Center City, MN 55012

CC: Ben Montzka (Vice Chair) – District 4
Jim Swenson – District 1
Marlys Dunne – District 3
Dan Dahlberg – District 5

Dear Chair Greene and Members of the Board,

We are writing to urge the Chisago County Board of Commissioners to work quickly toward a fair resolution to the ongoing contract negotiations with Teamsters Local 320. After more than 80 days on strike, this dispute has gone on far too long, and the continued impasse is affecting the Chisago County residents who rely on the services these county workers provide.

Minnesota has a long tradition of respecting worker rights and recognizing the importance of collective bargaining. Good faith negotiations are essential to maintaining a strong public workforce and ensuring that workers are treated with fairness and dignity. The County has a responsibility to make meaningful progress toward an agreement that reflects the value of these public servants.

The county has a duty to ensure the stable delivery of essential services. Prolonged labor disputes carry long term costs, and further delays in reaching an agreement can cause harm to the most vulnerable populations in Chisago County. Essential safety nets managed by county workers from Medicaid benefits for seniors and people with disabilities, to child protective services and access to food supports, are fraying more each day.

Beyond human services, this shutdown causes harm to the local economy and compromises our basic public infrastructure. Local business owners are suffering because routine county permits, licensing, and economic development services have come to a

halt. Public infrastructure cannot run without the people who maintain it, and the business community of Chisago County cannot afford a continued strike.

The members of Teamsters Local 320 are asking for a contract that reflects the essential services they provide, with fair wages, affordable healthcare, and safe working conditions. Further delays will make it more difficult to recruit and retain experienced employees, increase operational expenses, and erode trust between workers and their employers. Reaching a fair contract is not only the right thing for county employees, but also the best plan forward for the stability and effectiveness of county government.

We urge the Chisago County Board to return to the bargaining table with a fair and meaningful offer to end this strike today. Chisago County residents deserve a fully functioning county government, and county employees deserve a contract that recognizes their contributions, safety, and dignity. End this strike, bring Local 320 members back to work, and restore the vital public services this community pays for and desperately needs.

Sincerely,

Senator Erin Murphy
Senate Majority Leader
Senate District 64

Senator Jen McEwen
Chair, Senate Labor Committee
Senate District 8

Senator Melissa Wiklund
Senate District 51

Senator Erin Maye Quade
Senate District 56

Senator Sandra Pappas
Senate District 65