

LABOR RELATIONS



Mr. William H. Young
President
National Association of Letter
Carriers, AFL-CIO
100 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001-2144

Re: E98N-4E-C 00169070
Hernandez, H.
Anchorage, AK 99503-9514

Dear Mr. Young:


On September 17, I met with your representative to discuss the above-referenced case at the interpretive step of the grievance procedure.

After reviewing this matter, we mutually agree that no national interpretive issue is presented in this case. It is agreed that either party may place a case appealed to Regional arbitration on hold, pursuant to Article 15.4.B.5 of the 2001-2006 National Agreement, pending the consideration of an interpretive issue by their national representative at any point prior to an arbitrator issuing a written decision. Such referral to the interpretive step is not subject to regional arbitral review. As the subject case was referred to the national level prior to Arbitrator Bajork's February 8 award, the award is considered invalid and without standing. The parties further agree to close this case, as the underlying grievance is now moot.

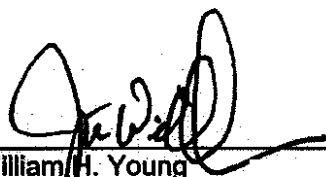
Please sign and return the enclosed copy of this decision as acknowledgment of your agreement to close this grievance.

Time limits were extended by mutual consent.

Sincerely,



Doug A. Tulino
Manager
Labor Relations Policies
and Programs



William H. Young
President
National Association of Letter
Carriers, AFL-CIO
Date: 10/22/03