

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD
REGION 10, SUBREGION 11**

**GREEN LINE MEDIA, INC., d/b/a MOUNTAIN
XPRESS**

and

Case 10-CA-117085

**COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA,
AFL-CIO**

COMPLAINT AND NOTICE OF HEARING

This Complaint and Notice of Hearing is based on a charge filed by Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO (Union). It is issued pursuant to Section 10(b) of the National Labor Relations Act, 29 U.S.C. § 151 et seq. (the Act), and Section 102.15 of the Rules and Regulations of the National Labor Relations Board (the Board) and alleges that Green Line Media, Inc., d/b/a Mountain Xpress (Respondent) has violated the Act as described below:

1.

(a) The charge in this proceeding was filed by the Union on November 15, 2013, and a copy was served by regular mail on Respondent on November 15, 2013.

(b) The first amended charge in this proceeding was filed by the Union on January 24, 2014, and a copy was served by regular mail on Respondent on January 24, 2014.

(c) The second amended charge in this proceeding was filed by the Union on February 5, 2014, and a copy was served by regular mail on Respondent on February 6, 2014.

(d) The third amended charge in this proceeding was filed by the Union on February 20, 2014, and a copy was served by regular mail on Respondent on February 20, 2014.

2.

At all material times, Respondent has been a corporation with an office and place of business in Asheville, North Carolina (Respondent's facility), and has been publishing Mountain Xpress, a weekly newspaper.

3.

(a) In conducting its operations during the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, Respondent derived gross revenues in excess of \$200,000.

(b) During the period of time described above in paragraph 3(a), Respondent purchased and received at its Asheville, North Carolina facility products, goods, and materials valued in excess of \$5,000 directly from points outside the State of North Carolina.

4.

At all material times, Respondent has been an employer engaged in commerce within the meaning of Section 2(2), (6), and (7) of the Act.

5.

At all material times, the Union has been a labor organization within the meaning of Section 2(5) of the Act.

6.

At all material times, the following individuals held the positions set forth opposite their respective names and have been supervisors of Respondent within the meaning of Section 2(11) of the Act and agents of Respondent within the meaning of Section 2(13) of the Act:

Jeff Fobes	-	Publisher
Margaret Williams	-	Editor, Editorial News

Rebecca Sulock - Editor, Editorial A&E
Carrie Lare - Art & Design Manager

7.

About October 25, 2013, Respondent, by Jeff Fobes, at Respondent's facility, threatened its employees with termination if they voiced their disagreement with management or raised concerns regarding their wages, hours, and working conditions.

8.

(a) About October 24, 2013, Respondent's employee Clarence Drayton Cooper, IV (Max Cooper) concertedly complained to Respondent regarding the wages, hours, and working conditions of Respondent's employees, by presenting to management and employees a letter addressing staffing and other workplace concerns and initiating a discussion, during a weekly news meeting, regarding staffing and other workplace concerns.

(b) About October 25, 2013, Respondent terminated Max Cooper.

(c) Respondent engaged in the conduct described above in paragraph 8(b), because Max Cooper engaged in the conduct described above in paragraph 8(a), and to discourage employees from engaging in these or other concerted activities.

9.

By the conduct described above in paragraphs 7 and 8, Respondent has been interfering with, restraining, and coercing employees in the exercise of the rights guaranteed in Section 7 of the Act in violation of Section 8(a)(1) of the Act.

The unfair labor practices of Respondent described above affect commerce within the meaning of Section 2(6) and (7) of the Act.

WHEREFORE, as part of the remedy for the unfair labor practices alleged above in paragraphs 7 and 8, the General Counsel seeks an Order requiring that the Notice be read to employees during working time by Respondent.

The General Counsel further seeks, as part of the remedy for the unfair labor practices alleged above in paragraphs 7 and 8, an Order requiring Respondent to electronically post the Notice to Employees at its Asheville, North Carolina facility, if Respondent customarily uses electronic means such as an electronic bulletin board, e-mail, website, or intranet to communicate with those employees.

The General Counsel further seeks all other relief as may be just and proper to remedy the unfair labor practices alleged.

ANSWER REQUIREMENT

Respondent is notified that, pursuant to Sections 102.20 and 102.21 of the Board's Rules and Regulations, it must file an answer to the complaint. The answer must be **received by this office on or before March 10, 2014, or postmarked on or before March 9, 2014**. Respondent should file an original and four copies of the answer with this office and serve a copy of the answer on each of the other parties.

An answer may also be filed electronically through the Agency's website. To file electronically, go to www.nlr.gov, click on **File Case Documents**, enter the NLRB Case Number, and follow the detailed instructions. The responsibility for the receipt and usability of

the answer rests exclusively upon the sender. Unless notification on the Agency's website informs users that the Agency's E-Filing system is officially determined to be in technical failure because it is unable to receive documents for a continuous period of more than 2 hours after 12:00 noon (Eastern Time) on the due date for filing, a failure to timely file the answer will not be excused on the basis that the transmission could not be accomplished because the Agency's website was off-line or unavailable for some other reason. The Board's Rules and Regulations require that an answer be signed by counsel or non-attorney representative for represented parties or by the party if not represented. See Section 102.21. If the answer being filed electronically is a pdf document containing the required signature, no paper copies of the answer need to be transmitted to the Regional Office. However, if the electronic version of an answer to a complaint is not a pdf file containing the required signature, then the E-filing rules require that such answer containing the required signature continue to be submitted to the Regional Office by traditional means within three (3) business days after the date of electronic filing. Service of the answer on each of the other parties must still be accomplished by means allowed under the Board's Rules and Regulations. The answer may not be filed by facsimile transmission. If no answer is filed, or if an answer is filed untimely, the Board may find, pursuant to a Motion for Default Judgment, that the allegations in the complaint are true.

NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT on the 2nd day of June, 2014, at 10:00 a.m., at a place to be designated in Asheville, North Carolina, and on consecutive days thereafter until concluded, a hearing will be conducted before an administrative law judge of the National Labor Relations Board. At the hearing, Respondent and any other party to this proceeding have the right to appear and present testimony regarding the allegations in this complaint. The procedures to be followed at the hearing are described in the attached Form NLRB-4668. The procedure to request a postponement of the hearing is described in the attached Form NLRB-4338.

Dated: February 24, 2014

NANCY WILSON
ACTING REGIONAL DIRECTOR
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD
REGION 10, BY



JANE P. NORTH
OFFICER-IN-CHARGE
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD
SUBREGION 11
4035 UNIVERSITY PKWY STE 200
WINSTON SALEM, NC 27106-3275

Attachments

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD
REGION 10, SUBREGION 11**

**GREEN LINE MEDIA, INC., d/b/a MOUNTAIN
XPRESS**

and

Case 10-CA-117085

**COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA,
AFL-CIO**

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE OF: Complaint and Notice of Hearing (with forms NLRB-4338 and NLRB-4668 attached)

I, the undersigned employee of the National Labor Relations Board, being duly sworn, say that on February 24, 2014, I served the above-entitled document(s) by **certified or regular mail**, as noted below, upon the following persons, addressed to them at the following addresses:

JEFF FOBES
GREEN LINE MEDIA, INC., D/B/A
MOUNTAIN XPRESS
2 WALL STREET
ASHEVILLE, NC 28801

**CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN
RECEIPT REQUESTED
7012 3050 0001 1271 3195**

CHARLES P. ROBERTS, III , ESQ.
CONSTANGY BROOKS & SMITH LLP
100 N CHERRY ST STE 300
WINSTON SALEM, NC 27101-4016

REGULAR MAIL

JOHN L. QUINN , DISTRICT COUNSEL
COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF
AMERICA, DISTRICT 3, AFL-CIO (CWA)
3516 COVINGTON HWY
DECATUR, GA 30032-1850

**CERTIFIED MAIL
7012 3050 0001 1271 3171**

February 24, 2014

Date

Lisa A. Davis, Designated Agent of NLRB

Name

/s/ Lisa A. Davis

Signature

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD
NOTICE

Case 10-CA-117085

The issuance of the notice of formal hearing in this case does not mean that the matter cannot be disposed of by agreement of the parties. On the contrary, it is the policy of this office to encourage voluntary adjustments. The examiner or attorney assigned to the case will be pleased to receive and to act promptly upon your suggestions or comments to this end.

An agreement between the parties, approved by the Regional Director, would serve to cancel the hearing. However, unless otherwise specifically ordered, the hearing will be held at the date, hour, and place indicated. Postponements **will not be granted** unless good and sufficient grounds are shown **and** the following requirements are met:

- (1) The request must be in writing. An original and two copies must be filed with the Regional Director when appropriate under 29 CFR 102.16(a) or with the Division of Judges when appropriate under 29 CFR 102.16(b).
- (2) Grounds must be set forth in **detail**;
- (3) Alternative dates for any rescheduled hearing must be given;
- (4) The positions of all other parties must be ascertained in advance by the requesting party and set forth in the request; and
- (5) Copies must be simultaneously served on all other parties (listed below), and that fact must be noted on the request.

Except under the most extreme conditions, no request for postponement will be granted during the three days immediately preceding the date of hearing.

JOHN L. QUINN , DISTRICT COUNSEL
COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA,
DISTRICT 3, AFL-CIO (CWA)
3516 COVINGTON HWY
DECATUR, GA 30032-1850

JEFF FOBES
GREEN LINE MEDIA, INC., D/B/A MOUNTAIN XPRESS
2 WALL STREET
ASHEVILLE, NC 28801

CHARLES P. ROBERTS, III , ESQ.
CONSTANGY BROOKS & SMITH LLP
100 N CHERRY ST STE 300
WINSTON SALEM, NC 27101-4016

**SUMMARY OF STANDARD PROCEDURES IN FORMAL HEARINGS HELD
BEFORE THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD
IN UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICE PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO
SECTION 10 OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT**

The hearing will be conducted by an administrative law judge of the National Labor Relations Board who will preside at the hearing as an independent, impartial finder of the facts and applicable law whose decision in due time will be served on the parties. The offices of the administrative law judges are located in Washington, DC; San Francisco, California; New York, N.Y.; and Atlanta, Georgia.

At the date, hour, and place for which the hearing is set, the administrative law judge, upon the joint request of the parties, will conduct a "prehearing" conference, prior to or shortly after the opening of the hearing, to ensure that the issues are sharp and clearcut; or the administrative law judge may independently conduct such a conference. The administrative law judge will preside at such conference, but may, if the occasion arises, permit the parties to engage in private discussions. The conference will not necessarily be recorded, but it may well be that the labors of the conference will be evinced in the ultimate record, for example, in the form of statements of position, stipulations, and concessions. Except under unusual circumstances, the administrative law judge conducting the prehearing conference will be the one who will conduct the hearing; and it is expected that the formal hearing will commence or be resumed immediately upon completion of the prehearing conference. No prejudice will result to any party unwilling to participate in or make stipulations or concessions during any prehearing conference.

(This is not to be construed as preventing the parties from meeting earlier for similar purposes. To the contrary, the parties are encouraged to meet prior to the time set for hearing in an effort to narrow the issues.)

Parties may be represented by an attorney or other representative and present evidence relevant to the issues. All parties appearing before this hearing who have or whose witnesses have handicaps falling within the provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and 29 C.F.R. 100.603, and who in order to participate in this hearing need appropriate auxiliary aids, as defined in 29 C.F.R. 100.603, should notify the Regional Director as soon as possible and request the necessary assistance.

An official reporter will make the only official transcript of the proceedings, and all citations in briefs and arguments must refer to the official record. The Board will not certify any transcript other than the official transcript for use in any court litigation. Proposed corrections of the transcript should be submitted, either by way of stipulation or motion, to the administrative law judge for approval.

All matter that is spoken in the hearing room while the hearing is in session will be recorded by the official reporter unless the administrative law judge specifically directs off-the-record discussion. In the event that any party wishes to make off-the-record statements, a request to go off the record should be directed to the administrative law judge and not to the official reporter.

Statements of reasons in support of motions and objections should be specific and concise. The administrative law judge will allow an automatic exception to all adverse rulings and, upon appropriate order, an objection and exception will be permitted to stand to an entire line of questioning.

All exhibits offered in evidence shall be in duplicate. Copies of exhibits should be supplied to the administrative law judge and other parties at the time the exhibits are offered in evidence. If a copy of any exhibit is not available at the time the original is received, it will be the responsibility of the party offering such exhibit to submit the copy to the administrative law judge before the close of hearing. In the event such copy is not submitted, and the filing has not been waived by the administrative law judge, any ruling receiving the exhibit may be rescinded and the exhibit rejected.

Any party shall be entitled, on request, to a reasonable period of time at the close of the hearing for oral argument, which shall be included in the transcript of the hearing. In the absence of a request, the administrative law judge may ask for oral argument if, at the close of the hearing, it is believed that such argument would be beneficial to the understanding of the contentions of the parties and the factual issues involved.

(OVER)

In the discretion of the administrative law judge, any party may, on request made before the close of the hearing, file a brief or proposed findings and conclusions, or both, with the administrative law judge who will fix the time for such filing. Any such filing submitted shall be double-spaced on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper.

Attention of the parties is called to the following requirements laid down in Section 102.42 of the Board's Rules and Regulations, with respect to the procedure to be followed before the proceeding is transferred to the Board: No request for an extension of time within which to submit briefs or proposed findings to the administrative law judge will be considered unless received by the Chief Administrative Law Judge in Washington, DC (or, in cases under the branch offices in San Francisco, California; New York, New York; and Atlanta, Georgia, the Associate Chief Administrative Law Judge) at least 3 days prior to the expiration of time fixed for the submission of such documents. Notice of request for such extension of time must be served simultaneously on all other parties, and proof of such service furnished to the Chief Administrative Law Judge or the Associate Chief Administrative Law Judge, as the case may be. A quicker response is assured if the moving party secures the positions of the other parties and includes such in the request. All briefs or proposed findings filed with the administrative law judge must be submitted in triplicate, and may be printed or otherwise legibly duplicated with service on the other parties.

In due course the administrative law judge will prepare and file with the Board a decision in this proceeding, and will cause a copy thereof to be served on each of the parties. Upon filing of this decision, the Board will enter an order transferring this case to itself, and will serve copies of that order, setting forth the date of such transfer, on all parties. At that point, the administrative law judge's official connection with the case will cease.

The procedure to be followed before the Board from that point forward, with respect to the filing of exceptions to the administrative law judge's decision, the submission of supporting briefs, requests for oral argument before the Board, and related matters, is set forth in the Board's Rules and Regulations, particularly in Section 102.46 and following sections. A summary of the more pertinent of these provisions will be served on the parties together with the order transferring the case to the Board.

Adjustments or settlements consistent with the policies of the National Labor Relations Act reduce government expenditures and promote amity in labor relations. If adjustment appears possible, the administrative law judge may suggest discussions between the parties or, on request, will afford reasonable opportunity during the hearing for such discussions.