



One Touch, Make Ready threatens worker and public safety, violates CWA collective bargaining agreements, and destroys good jobs

One Touch, Make Ready (OTMR) mandates that companies (and their approved contractors) that want to put new equipment on utility poles can move existing equipment to create the necessary space. This is called “make-ready” work. Per legally binding contracts, work moving AT&T equipment has been performed by CWA-represented employees for decades. Now the Federal Communications Commission is considering adopting One Touch, Make Ready as nationwide policy. The FCC should not adopt policy that threatens worker and public safety, violates collective bargaining agreements, and destroys good jobs.

- **One Touch, Make Ready threatens worker and public safety.** Make-ready pole attachment work is complex and, if done incorrectly, can lead to dangerous conditions for workers and the public. Unskilled work could leave heavy terminals and wires hanging without the proper support. Ungrounded wires could pose electrocution risks. Incorrect placement or overloading equipment on damaged or decaying poles could lead to poles falling in the public right-of-way. Skilled, properly trained workers who know the equipment, the condition of the poles, and safe practices can best protect public and worker safety.
- **One Touch, Make Ready violates CWA collective bargaining agreements.** OTMR policies infringe on longstanding collective bargaining agreements between CWA and AT&T Southeast that gives jurisdiction over make-ready work to CWA-represented employees. The AT&T Southeast contract covers AT&T employees in NC, SC, GA, FL, KY, TN, MS, AL, and LA.
 - The collective bargaining agreement between CWA District 3 and AT&T Southeast (d/b/a BellSouth Telecommunications) includes Article 14, a provision that has been in the agreement for decades. In Article 14, BellSouth agrees “to use only Company employees on work involving the construction, maintenance, removal and/or repair of the following types of plant: All aerial outside plant...underground cable and splicing of buried cable ... equipment which constitutes any part of a communication circuit.”
- **One Touch, Make Ready destroys good jobs.** Career company employees are in the best position to do make-ready work safely and properly; they know the equipment, the condition of the poles, the rules regulating attachment placement, and have been properly trained. Moreover, career workers are on the frontlines of the telecommunications industry – responding to consumer needs, building and maintaining networks, ensuring safety and quality service. Mandating contractors to do make-ready work undermines good, career jobs in communities across the US.