



Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division

Teamsters Rail Conference

Freddie N. Simpson
National President

Perry K. Geller, Sr.
National Secretary-Treasurer

March 30, 2005

Dear Senator:

The members of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division, Teamsters (BMWED) are the first line of safety and security for Amtrak's Northeast corridor and the large stations operated by Amtrak coast to coast. These men and women work 24/7 to maintain the tracks, bridges and electrical power grid that keep Amtrak's trains running on time and safely. These same men and women have not received a pay raise in over five years. What they want, and need, is a new collective bargaining agreement and they ask your help to convince the National Mediation Board to take the next step in bargaining under the Railway Labor Act.

Here is a timeline of over five years of frustration:

- November 1, 1999 – BMWED serves written notice on Amtrak to begin bargaining
- May 12, 2000 – National Mediation Board begins “mediation” of BMWED/Amtrak bargaining
- Between 2000 and 2004, NMB schedules 20 bargaining sessions, yet parties remain at impasse
- July 2003 – BMWED requests release from mediation, NMB refuses
- March 2005 – BMWED repeats request for release, BMWED and Amtrak have not met for over one year

The next step in the Railway Labor Act bargaining process is called a “proffer of arbitration” and only the NMB can take that step. BMWED wants to settle its Amtrak contract on terms similar to those it used to settle its last collective bargaining agreement with the major freight railroads in 2001. Without a “proffer” the men and women who keep Amtrak safe will continue in collective bargaining purgatory.

We are asking you to help by urging you to contact the NMB to tell the NMB that they should take the next step that is required under the Railway Labor Act, which is to make a proffer of arbitration in this case, Case No. A-13080.

The members of the NMB are:

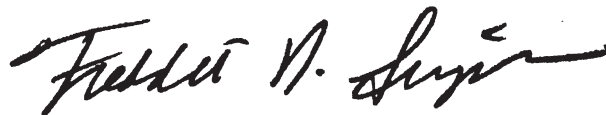
Harry Hoglander, Chairman (202) 692-5022
Read Van de Water, Member (202) 692-5019
Edward Fitzmaurice, Member (202) 692-5016

The Board's mailing address is:

National Mediation Board
1301 K Street, N.W., Suite 250 East
Washington, D.C. 20572

We appreciate your help to hard working Amtrak employees. It would be of great assistance if you would let me know if you contact the NMB on our behalf. If you have any questions, please contact BMWED's Director of Government Affairs, Danny Gates, at 202-638-2135.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Freddie N. Simpson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Freddie N. Simpson
President

cc: Amtrak General Chairmen
J. R. Cook
R. Wehrli
H. Wise
F. Simpson
P. Geller