

"An Injury To One Is An Injury To All"

Pennsylvania Federation

121 North Broad Street - Suite 503
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107
www.pennfedbmwe.org
phone: (215) 569-1285
fax: (215) 569-0676



Office of the General Chairman
Jed Dodd

certified letter number 7003 0500 0002 7724 8878
return receipt requested

November 23, 2005

Honorable Rick Santorum
Widener Building
1 South Penn Square
Suite 960
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Senator Santorum:

Your letter declining to help us in our contract dispute with Amtrak was very disappointing. Our members construct and maintain the railroad track, bridges, buildings and overhead catenary system for Amtrak's facilities in Pennsylvania. We perform tough, hard, dangerous work in all weather conditions to ensure that this vital public service functions for the citizens of Pennsylvania. Our Union has entered it's sixth year without a new contract on Amtrak. Their demands for the brutalization of our working conditions, steep cuts in our benefits and reductions in our income have made reaching an agreement impossible. Our members are suffering greatly because of this. Justice and common decency require that something be done about it. We are unable to advance our issues because the National Mediation Board has held us in government imposed mediation for five and one-half years. During that period we have only met 12 times and only twice in the last two years. How can you ignore this travesty?

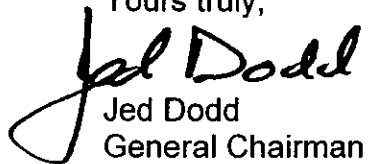
The management at Amtrak is appointed by President Bush with the advice and consent of the Senate. Our mediators, designated by the government, are also appointed by President Bush with the advice and consent of the Senate. Do you think that this is due process? Don't you think that something fundamentally unfair is being done to the citizens of Pennsylvania with this charade? Is it your opinion that we should

be without a new agreement for six years and forbidden by the government to do anything about it for five and one half years? We have offered to arbitrate our dispute to resolve this problem without a service disruption. This offer has been refused because the appointed management do not believe that they can sustain their position in a fair process. They insist on keeping us in this maze to nowhere, engineered by President Bush and the Republican controlled Senate.

You are a leader of the Republican Party and a close confidant of President Bush. You are the Chairman of the Republican Conference in the Senate. You have the ability to resolve this problem but have chosen to abandon your responsibilities to Pennsylvania citizens. We appeal to you to reconsider your position and stand up for the citizens of Pennsylvania.

We desire to meet immediately with you to correct this problem. Please contact me at your earliest opportunity so that this can be arranged. We await your answer.

Yours truly,


Jed Dodd
General Chairman

cc Pennsylvania Membership
John Murphy, Director Teamster Rail Division
Fred Simpson, President Teamster Maintenance of Way Division
Bill George, President AFL-CIO
Pat Eiding, President Philadelphia CLC