

"An Injury To One Is An Injury To All"

Pennsylvania Federation

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Office of the General Chairman
Jed Dodd

Priority Mail

April 4, 2005

United States Senate
Honorable Rick Santorum
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1103

Dear Senator Santorum:

Our Union represents the hard working men and women who build and maintain the catenary structure, buildings, bridges, roadbed and railroad track for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation. We are electricians, carpenters, plumbers, heavy machine operators, foreman, inspectors, welders, repairmen, laborers, etc., who perform tough, hard and dangerous jobs. We work day and night, in the deadly cold of winter and the broiling sun of summer, to ensure that the trains on the Northeast Corridor run safely and on time. Hundreds of us live and work in Pennsylvania and we are appealing to you as a leader of the majority to correct a terrible injustice that exists. We are being denied our basic rights under law and we ask that you use your office to intervene to correct this problem.

We have been without a new collective bargaining agreement on Amtrak for over five years. We have been under the auspices of the National Mediation Board and in government controlled mediation for more than four years. Although our demands for settlement are extremely modest we have been at impasse with Amtrak for over three years. We have a right under law to progress our dispute forward but the National Mediation Board has refused our request for release and has left us in collective bargaining purgatory with no hope of resolution. The only way this dispute will be resolved is if our rights under law are respected and we are released from mediation.

Attached is a letter written by Division President Simpson to the National Mediation

Board requesting that we be released so that we may resolve this matter. This is the second time that our Union has made this request, thus far to no avail. We would ask that you contact the National Mediation Board and use your influence as a majority leader of the government to ensure that our rights under law are respected and we are released from mediation.

We would be happy to meet with you, or your staff, at your convenience to answer any questions that you may have about this issue.

Yours truly,

Jed Dodd
General Chairman

cc fax to regional offices