



Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Freddie N. Simpson
President

Perry K. Geller, Sr.
Secretary-Treasurer

January 5, 2006

via fax & first class mail

Joseph M. Bress, Vice President - Labor Relations
National Railroad Passenger Corporation
60 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Re: BMWED bargaining

Dear Mr. Bress:

I read with interest your op-ed piece in the New York Times entitled "How to Avoid Another Transit Strike," touting the advantages of binding interest arbitration in collective bargaining disputes. Certainly, the advantages of interest arbitration as a tool to resolve contentious collective bargaining disputes you praised in regards to the recent MTA dispute should apply equally to our situation on Amtrak.

I realize that Amtrak has recently gone through some management changes that may have been a distraction from our long-standing dispute. However, Amtrak now has a new CEO and just yesterday, President Bush re-appointed two members to Amtrak's Board of Directors so that a quorum exists for the Board to operate. Given these recent developments, I believe now is the time for BMWED and Amtrak to take their disputes to binding interest arbitration before a qualified, experienced labor relations professional. As we have stated before, an arbitrator chosen among any of the former members of Presidential Emergency Board Numbers 222 and 234 would be acceptable to BMWED. Such an individual would come to the table with some knowledge and experience in dealing with the parties and understanding the nature and history of collective bargaining regarding Amtrak and its unions.

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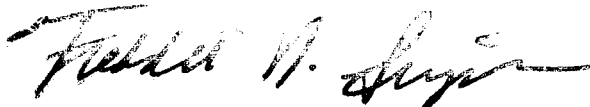


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I hope your recent piece in the New York Times is a harbinger of a change of heart at Amtrak on this issue. Please contact me at your earliest convenience.

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: L. Gibbons - NMB
BMWED/Amtrak System Federations
J. R. Cook
R. B. Wehrli
H. Wise
D. Griffin