

February , 2004

The Honorable _____
Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Re: IAM and NCCC, NMB Case A-13159

Dear Representative:

More than 7,500 railroad members of the International Association of Machinists have been negotiating since 1999 to amend their contract. After four years of negotiations and 97 percent of the membership rejecting the "last and final offer" from the National Conference Carriers' Committee, representing the freight rail carriers, the negotiating process must be moved to the next step.

Under the Railway Labor Act, when negotiations are deadlocked the National Mediation Board (NMB) is required to declare an impasse and make a proffer of arbitration to settle all outstanding issues.

Unfortunately, the NMB has neglected their duty by failing to act on four Machinist Union requests to move the bargaining process forward.

Congress created the NMB to facilitate contract negotiations and avoid service disruptions. However, the NMB has failed to act on repeated requests to advance the bargaining process, and as a result have become an obstacle to reaching an agreement.

I am asking you to contact the members of the National Mediation Board and demand they respond to repeated requests for a proffer of arbitration, a step that historically precipitates settlement of difficult contract disputes.

Sincerely,

Print Name: _____

Print Address: _____



You may modify this sample letter and mail, fax or email it to your House Representative. You can find your Representative at <http://capwiz.com/iamaw/dbq/officials> or contact your local lodge for assistance. Be sure to include your home address in your correspondence to receive a response.