



God Bless America



The American Railway and Airway Supervisors Association Transportation Communications International Union AFL-CIO, CLC

Joseph J. Derillo, Sr., *International Representative*
Gary J. Campbell, *Assistant International Representative*

Advisory Board

Gary Wertz, Rick Brown, William Mills, John Blomstedt, Clarence Spurlock

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ALL MEMBERS
ARASA – TCU

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

By now I'm sure all of you have heard about President Obama's plans to expand High-Speed Rail. In total, \$13 billion dollars has been budgeted over the next five years for expansion to this service. While that may sound like a lot of capital, it is barely a jump start when you consider the number of corridors being considered for high-speed development. At this time, only one high-speed line is operating in the Northeast corridor. Nevertheless, we are at the threshold of a new era that promises greater productivity, a greener planet with the reduction in destructive emissions, safer transportation for consumers, and greater savings to the population in general.

President Obama would like to see the U.S. have a "smart transportation system equal to the needs of the 21st century." High-Speed Rail is the very technology that makes this ideology possible. As far as cost, the sooner we can get started on improving and building on this innovation, the better. Costs continue to rise, as well as population growth.

This technology would also have the potential of creating thousands of jobs to handle this service as well as to build the infrastructure to carry the trains. TCU has voiced their opinion that Amtrak workers should be the operator of choice. However, this is a hurdle yet to be crossed.



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In closing, I would like to say that the benefit for the expansion of U.S. High Speed Rail has so many far-reaching aspects it is hard to fathom all areas that would be affected. Efficiency and productivity aside, the thought of the environmental benefits for generations to come would in and of itself be enough reason to push forward, headlong, into this promising modernization known as High-Speed Rail.

Yours in solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph J. Derillo, Sr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

Joseph J. Derillo, Sr.
ARASA International Representative