



Transportation Communications International Union

An affiliate of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



God Bless America

Robert A. Scardelletti
International President

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All TCU District & Local Chairmen

Greetings:

The 109th Congress adjourned *sine die* on December 9, 2006. This Congress will be known as one of the most “do-nothing Congresses” in history. One of Congress’ main functions each year is to pass eleven appropriation bills which fund the work of our Government including Amtrak and Railroad Retirement. The 2nd Session of the 109th Congress passed only two of the eleven. In order to keep the Government from shutting down Continuing Resolutions were passed that fund programs at the fiscal year 2006 level.

Even though Congress did not complete its work, due to the efforts of TCU’s Legislative Department a last minute bill, HR 5483, the Railroad Retirement Disability Earnings Act of 2006, was passed. The President signed this Bill on January 12, 2007. This Act increases the amount of money that can be earned by anyone receiving a Railroad Retirement Disability Pension. Effective January 1, 2007, the outside earnings limit was raised to \$700 per month and is now indexed to rise with inflation. Previously the limit was \$400 per month.

Without the hard work of our Legislative Department this bill would not have passed and would have had to be reintroduced in the 110th Congress. This is another example of TCU being in the lead on legislative issues for all of Rail Labor.

In solidarity,

R. A. Scardelletti
International President

cc: Executive Council
Carmen Division Officers
General Chairman
International Representatives
Assistant International Representatives

