

Barack Obama

July 29, 2008

Robert A. Scardelletti
International President
Transportation Communications Union
3 Research Place
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear President Scardelletti:

It is an honor to have the endorsement of the Transportation Communications Union and its members. Working Americans like you at TCU have throughout our history been the backbone of the American economy, and your commitment and effort this election cycle will help restore a sense of shared prosperity and security to the nation.

Strengthening our transportation infrastructure will be a top priority of my Administration. The benefits of a first-class passenger rail system have long been apparent, and the recent escalation in the cost of energy simply underscores that we ignore this priority at our own peril. It is important that high speed rail, both passenger and freight, be developed, and that requires investment in repair and modernization of basic infrastructure. And it is time to take a broader and longer-term look at Amtrak, with funding levels that assure not just that the system continues to run, but also improves and expands its service to the travelling public.

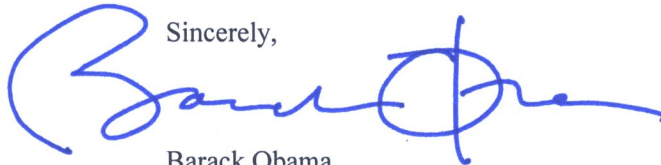
Adequate and enhanced security funds for transit and rail are also needed. More inspectors on railroads and enforcement of penalties for safety violations are important elements of an enhanced rail safety program.

I stand with TCU members when rail carriers merge, and I support vital 13(c) labor protections. And, as president, I will appoint members of the National Mediation Board who believe in workers' right to bargain and organize, and in timely labor-management negotiations. At all the agencies – the Department of Transportation, the Surface Transportation Board, the Federal Railroad Administration, the Department of Labor, the National Labor Relations Board and more – an Obama administration will replace anti-labor appointees with men and women who understand the situation of working families and who will enforce our labor laws.

To live up to our founding promise of equality for all, opportunity must be open to all Americans, and that means decent wages, good benefits and fair treatment for all workers. Certainly, a strong union movement has been and will continue to be a major contributor to the achievement of this essential national goal.

I am proud to stand with and for you and your members. I consider the TCU endorsement a significant statement about what we can do, working together, for change and progress that improves the quality of life for working families.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama



OBAMA'08
WWW.BARACKOBAMA.COM

Obama for America • PO Box 8210 • Chicago, IL 60680 • BarackObama.com

Paid for by Obama for America

