

September 22, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Current Railroad Retirement Board Labor Member, V. M. Speakman, Jr., has announced his intent to retire, effective January 1, 2011, after 18 years of service as Labor's representative on the Board.

We, the leaders of America's national railway labor organizations, are writing to unanimously recommend to you that Walter A. Barrows, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, be nominated to fill the remainder of Mr. Speakman's term as Labor Member, which will expire August 29, 2014.

Section 7(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 mandates the nomination by the President of candidates for Members of the Railroad Retirement Board. It further says selection of one of the nominees shall be on the basis of the recommendations made by representatives for the employees of our Nation's railroads.

For your ready reference, we quote in part from Section 7(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974, Public law 93-445:

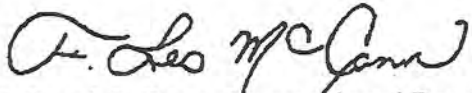
"One member shall be appointed from recommendations made by representatives of the employees and one member shall be appointed from recommendations made by representatives of employers as defined in paragraph (i) of section 1(a)(1) of this Act, in both cases as the President shall direct, so as to provide representation on the Board satisfactory to the largest number respectively, of employees and employers concerned."

Each of America's national railway labor organizations unanimously voted to recommend to you Mr. Barrows to succeed Mr. Speakman.

Mr. Barrows has been actively involved in the industry, on behalf of the active employees and railroad retirees, as one of labor's Trustees on the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust. A copy of Mr. Barrows' resume is enclosed for further information.

Accordingly, we take great pleasure in recommending to you that Walter A. Barrows be nominated as the Railroad Retirement Board's Labor Member.

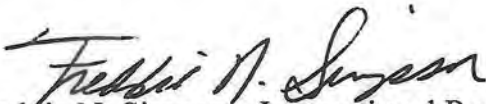
Sincerely,



F. Leo McCann, International President
American Train Dispatchers Association



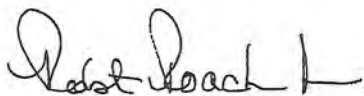
Dennis R. Pierce, National President
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen
Division of the Teamsters Rail Conference



Freddie N. Simpson, International President
Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division/IBT



W. Dan Pickett, International President
Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen



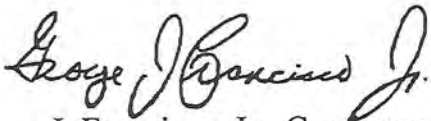
Robert Roach, Jr., General Vice President
International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers



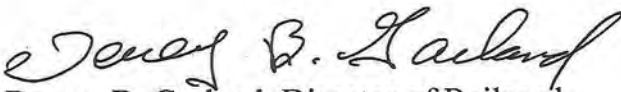
Newton B. Jones, International President
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship
Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers



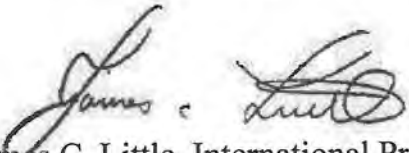
Edwin D. Hill, International President
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers



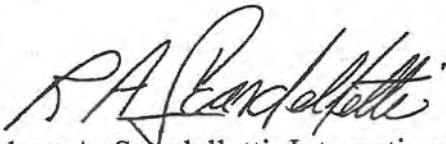
George J. Francisco, Jr., Conference President
National Conference of Firemen and Oilers, SEIU



Dewey B. Garland, Director of Railroad
Division and Shipyard Workers
Sheet Metal Workers International Association

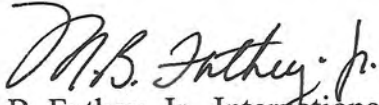


James C. Little, International President
Transport Workers Union of America



Robert A. Scardelletti, International President
Transportation Communications International Union

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M. B. Futhey, Jr., International President
United Transportation Union

Enclosure

cc: Nancy D. Hogan, Special Asst. to the Pres. & Dir. Of Personnel
Valerie Green, Special Asst. to the Pres.
Senator Tom Harkin
Senator Michael Enzi

WALTER A. BARROWS
3 GARDEN COURT
FRONT ROYAL, VA 22630
(847) 682-5267

Walter A. Barrows is Secretary-Treasurer of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (BRS). He was elected to this position in 1999 and reelected in 2002, 2006, and 2010.

Born in Cleveland, OH, on November 18, 1955, he started his railroad career in 1974 with the Norfolk & Western Railroad and held numerous positions in the railroad's signal department, including Signal Maintainer and Signal Test Man. In his local union, Locals 199 and 228, he held various positions including Local Chairman, Local President, and Recording-Financial Secretary. He also served the BRS as the General Chairman and General Secretary-Treasurer for the Norfolk Southern General Committee. Prior to being elected to Secretary-Treasurer he served as a Trustee on BRS' Grand Board of Trustees. In 2004, 2007, and 2010 the Nation's railroad unions elected him as a labor trustee to oversee the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust Fund.

Since 1999, Mr. Barrows has served as a labor member on joint health care subcommittee to oversee the National Railroad Health and Welfare Plan and is recognized by rail labor as a leader in railroad health care issues. In the current round of national railroad bargaining, he chairs the health care committee for the six unions in the Rail Labor's Bargaining Coalition.

Mr. Barrows currently resides in Front Royal, Virginia, and is active in his church. While residing in Ohio he served 14 years as an elder of St. Paul's Community Church. He is currently a deacon at Marlow Heights Baptist Church in Front Royal. He and his wife, Linda, have been married for 35 years and have three grown children, Tanya, Melissa, and Andrew.

Mr. Barrows completed course work at the Tuscarawas regional campus of Kent State University from 1988 through 1989 and as part of his continuing education, has attended the AFL-CIO George Meany Center for Labor Studies taking courses as Organizing under The Railway Labor Act, the Craft of Negotiating, Negotiating & Writing Contract Language and Advanced Bargaining Skills.

HISTORY OF WORK

1974-1990 Norfolk and Western Railroad/Norfolk Southern. Started as maintenance of way worker and transferred to the signal department the same year. Worked as Signal Helper, Signal Maintainer and a Signal Test Man.

1978-1990 Local officer for the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, Locals 199 and 228 (BRS) Served in various Brotherhood local positions (Local Chairman, Local President, and Local Recording-Financial Secretary)

1987-1990 Elected Assistant General Chairman BRS Norfolk Southern General Committee

1990-1999 Elected General Chairmen/General Secretary-Treasurer BRS Norfolk Southern General Committee

1996-1999 Elected Grand Board of Trustees BRS

Elected 1999, 2002, 2006, and 2010 to the position of National Secretary-Treasurer BRS Grand Lodge

Elected in 2004, 2007 and 2010 as one of three labor trustees the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust Fund