



Transportation Communications International Union

An affiliate of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



God Bless America

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LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

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The Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to you in my capacity as International President of the Transportation Communications Union/IAM representing over 50,000 members, approximately 35,000 of which work on America's railroads. TCU is the largest union on Amtrak--representing six (6) different crafts.

The purpose of my letter is to express support for the ten Northeastern Senators that asked you to redirect the \$2.4 billion in High-Speed Intercity Rail Passenger funds to the Northeast Corridor that were rejected by Governor Scott of Florida.

Ten years ago last December, Amtrak launched Acela Express--the nation's first and most advanced high-speed rail service in the United States. Acela Express has become a popular alternative to regional flights and automobiles traveling the busy Northeast Corridor. It is the busiest train corridor in the country servicing over 12 million riders a year. However, the Northeast Corridor could use some desperately needed help. Currently, it is slowed by chock points, outdated tunnels and old catenaries which make it prone to delays and other problems.

By redirecting the \$2.4 billion to the Northeast Corridor the government could expand on Amtrak's success, and embrace a vision for a more ambitious high-speed train that would travel up the Northeast Corridor at much higher speeds, significantly cutting the trip times from Washington to Boston. This would mark a major step forward in building the Northeast Corridor for the future.

Aside from the good paying jobs this service will create, it will also be a much needed travel alternative for the traveling public. New high-speed trains would divert riders from highways and air travel, reducing both congestion and our dependence on foreign oil.

I respectfully ask that the Administration consider these views as you move forward on this important matter.

Very truly yours

Robert A. Scardelletti
International President