



Transportation Communications International Union

An affiliate of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



God Bless America

Robert A. Scardelletti, International President

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

**Ron Kloos, International Vice President and
National Legislative Director**

Mark Taylor, Assistant National Legislative Director

William Kelaher, Assistant National Legislative Director

May 25, 2011

The Honorable John Kerry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Kerry and Stabenow:

On behalf of the fifty thousand members of the Transportation Communications International Union/IAM, I am writing to express our support for retiree health coverage. Your bill would provide an additional five billion dollars in funding for the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program. This program encourages a wide range of private business, states, local governments, non-profits, religious organizations and other groups to continue to offer much needed health insurance to their early retirees (individuals age 55 to 64) by providing immediate financial help to cover those with costly catastrophic medical expenses. Insurance for older Americans is more than four times more expensive than coverage for young adults, and your bill will help employers maintain coverage during these difficult economic times.

Congress appropriated five billion dollars for this temporary program, which by law must end no later than January 1, 2014. The overwhelming response from the employer community has made this program very popular across the United States. As a result of the demand, the program will no longer be accepting applications. Your bill will allow more employers to participate in the program and will further help reduce the cost of retiree coverage to the current program participants.

We stand ready to work with you and others to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Scardelletti
International President