

Transportation Communications Union/IAM

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



Robert A. Scardelletti
National President



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Dear TCU Amtrak member:

We are facing the most serious threat to Amtrak's existence in many years.

Congressman John Mica, a Florida Republican, has opposed Amtrak's existence for more than 15 years. But now, because the Republicans won the House of Representatives in the last election, he has become Chairman of one of the most powerful committees in Congress. And with this new power, he has set his sights on accomplishing his dream: getting rid of Amtrak, with its union wages and benefits.

Congressman Mica knows that there's too much congressional support for intercity train service to just eliminate Amtrak. So he's come up with the idea of "privatizing" it.

"Privatization" sounds good to the anti-government Republican majority. Mica also promises that private operators would run the system much more economically, thereby appealing to Congressmen who want to cut the deficit.

But the truth is that so-called privatization is a sham. It's a naked attempt to shift federal money to private operators, while keeping taxpayers on the hook to underwrite their profits.

The bill, dubbed the "Competition for Intercity Passenger Rail in America Act", would not only privatize the Northeast Corridor but it also would encourage private operators to replace Amtrak on long distance and state supported services. It would also foster contracting out of existing Amtrak services, like ticketing and on-board dining. It would result in the elimination of most, if not all, medium and long distance routes, since there would be no funding if the new operator couldn't run the service cheaply.

Why would these new operators operate at lower cost than Amtrak?

Because they would get rid of you and your union! The new operators would not be covered under the Railway Labor Act. They would not be covered under Railroad Retirement. There would be no C-2 protection.

Short and simple, they would be non-union, low-paying, minimal-benefit operations.

We must stop this bill in its tracks.

TCU, the IAM, and the rest of rail labor are already working hard in the halls of Congress to oppose this outrageous attack on your livelihood.



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But we need YOU to get directly involved.

We need every Congressman to be bombarded with calls and letters opposing this bill.

We have made it easy for you to contact your Congressman. Log on to the TCU web page at www.tcuunion.org. There is a special link for you to tell Congress "**NO**" to the Mica-Shuster "Competition for Intercity Passenger Rail in America Act".

But we need you to do more. As long as anti-worker, anti-Amtrak candidates dominate Congress, your job will always be under attack. We must restore a majority of pro-Amtrak congressmen. And that takes money.

Enclosed is a payroll deduction authorization form for our political PAC, MNPL. We cannot use dues money to support pro-union, pro-Amtrak candidates. That's why MNPL is so vital. It's a direct investment in your job and your future.

And don't be the last to know what's happening on this bill and other major developments. Sign up for **TCU Flash News**. Simply log on to www.tcuunion.org and click on the link on the right-hand side titled "Join Flash News". This is a free TCU service where we email you news on major issues every week. There will be a lot going on in Congress relating to Amtrak's future. Be the first to know. Sign up.

In closing, the Mica privatization bill demonstrates how critical politics is for the future of Amtrak employees. When President Obama won, we were overjoyed that for the first time in history we had a President who fully supported Amtrak and high speed rail. Our happiness was short lived. When Republicans took the House last election, Amtrak's fortunes turned on a dime. **We are once again in a fight for Amtrak's very survival.**

We need you to win that fight. Contact your Congressman. Contribute to MNPL. Sign up for Flash News.

Together we will win.

The Union is Here,



Robert A. Scardelletti
National President

Enclosures

cc: Executive Council
Carmen Division Officers
National Representatives
Assistant National Representatives
Local Lodge Officers with Amtrak Members