

Fight Back Against Efforts to Privatize Amtrak

Florida Congressman John Mica (R-07), Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has proposed to privatize the Amtrak Northeast Corridor (NEC), and he plans to rush the bill through his committee without a hearing, bypassing the democratic process and ignoring viewpoints that must be heard in considering such a sweeping change to our rail transportation system.



Privatization, which is often presented as the cure-all solution to government administration, is a false promise. Privatization will not benefit working families and is instead another giveaway to the business community at the expense of commuters. A proper analysis of this plan has yet to be conducted and answers to questions such as how this will impact commuter operations such as New Jersey Transit remain to be seen. After repeated fare increases, New Jersey Transit riders should not have to pay any more than they are already.

We ask you to please contact your Congressperson, who you can look up at www.contactingthecongress.org, and urge them to oppose any effort to privatize Amtrak. Please be sure to stress the following points during your call:

- With ridership and revenues at all time highs, Amtrak is doing better today than at any time in its history
- Working families deserve to be heard, and attempting to rush the bill through committee without a hearing is unacceptable and bypasses the democratic process
- After England privatized its rail service, fares went up, service and safety deteriorated, and passengers and employees died. We do not want to see this happen in the U.S.

For over 40 years Amtrak has provided superior commuter rail service in the northeast which is one of the most heavily traveled areas in our country and perhaps the world. We are committed to continuing this success and must emphasize this to our members of Congress.

In Unity,

Charles Wowkanech, President
Laurel Brennan, Secretary-Treasurer