## Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 16, 2011

Mr. Robert A. Scardelletti National President Transportation Communications Union / International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers 3 Research Place Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Scardelletti:

It is a pleasure to extend our congratulations on the merger of the Transportation Communications Union (TCU) and International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM). This historic event has joined together two influential unions creating one of the largest railroad unions in the country.

TCU and IAM are constantly working for the dignity, welfare and prosperity of their members. For over 100 years, the two organizations have stood up for American workers, ensuring they received a fair wage for their hard work. We commend you for your dedication to your members and believe the merger of these two influential unions will give greater strength to the fight for the rights and benefits of your members—good medical benefits, fair wages, and improved working conditions.

TCU and IAM have always been allies in advancing transportation projects and ensuring that working men and women continue to be represented in Congress. Your members have received strong and effective representation, and this merger will provide those qualities to a broader audience.

As a strong advocate and taking on a leadership role, your commitment to strengthening and protecting the Railroad Retirement system was pivotal in achieving historical improvements to the benefits for all rail members, the best retirement system in the country.

We urge you to stay on course in your dedication and unwavering commitment to serve the freight and commuter rail workers who play such an important role in ensuring rail safety—not only for themselves but for all Americans—in our everyday lives.

Again, congratulations and continued success to you, as we look forward to working together for the welfare of this country and the treatment of American workers with respect and dignity, under the new TCU/IAM.

Sincerely,

Nick J. Rahall, II

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