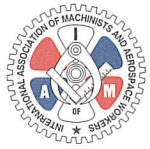




Transportation Communications Union/IAM

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



God Bless America

Robert A. Scardelletti, *National President*

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Ron Kloos, *National Vice President / National Legislative Director*

Mark Taylor, *Asst. National Legislative Director*

William C. Kelaher, *Asst. National Legislative Director*

March 2, 2015

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Transportation Communications Union/IAM, I am writing you to urge the members of the House of Representatives to pass, without amendment, H.R. 749, the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015 (PRRIA). We commend Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member DeFazio, Subcommittee Chairman Denham and Subcommittee Ranking Member Capuano for their leadership in crafting this bipartisan, compromise legislation in the House T&I Committee.

TCU appreciates the intention to strengthen the country's intercity passenger rail system. This bill reauthorizes Amtrak for the next four years which provides greater certainty for the traveling public and to Amtrak and its employees as they implement long-term modernization plans.

As the committee notes, by 2039, the U.S. population will exceed 400 million and the population concentration in our urban areas is increasing. Transportation solutions for these people are paramount to support an expanding U.S. economy. Americans spend a staggering 5.5 billion hours annually struck in traffic. Passenger rail presents one of the best hopes for solving these problems and relieving our congested highways and airspace.

We urge you to reject any amendments that would undermine Amtrak's role as the national passenger rail carrier. Specifically, we ask that you vote NO on the amendment that Rep. John Mica is expected to offer that would seek to privatize high speed passenger rail on the Northeast Corridor (NEC) should it come up for a vote. The NEC is the busiest passenger rail corridor in the country, and a critical component of the Amtrak system. This amendment, and any others like it, would threaten the effectiveness of this important bipartisan legislation and its likelihood to become law.

Having a predictable, dedicated and robust federal funding source is essential to sustaining and improving the intercity passenger rail system and achieving a balanced transportation system that provides meaningful travel choices for Americans.

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.A. Scardelletti". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and "A".

Robert A. Scardelletti
National President