April 28, 2020

William Flynn
President/CEO
Amtrak
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Washington, DC 20001

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Dear Mr. Flynn:

Rail transit systems, railroads and bus operation systems in the United States are experiencing a crisis like never before. Transportation employees are facing some of the most hazardous working conditions of their lifetimes. Their jobs are exposing them to a virus that has halted the entire world. The effects of Covid-19 are still to be determined and these employees must face this reality every workday. They bravely risk contracting this deadly virus, in order to keep the trains running.

Amtrak railroad workers are essential employees. They are making sacrifices many Americans do not have to make. They're risking their lives every day to keep America moving during these uncertain times. As the country has advocated for the healthcare community, transportation employees deserve the same. We must protect the families of the Amtrak essential employees.

Our Amtrak members are terrified at the possibility of exposing not only themselves, but their families to this virus. Amtrak is essential to the fight against COVID-19. Many first responders only mode of transportation is Amtrak. Our members are battling on the front line with many other essential employees and continue to provide service to help move the nurses, doctors, police officers and many others to perform their heroism.

COVID-19 has spread rapidly among the railroad and transit systems. No one is immune to this deadly virus. Management and front-line employees have battled this dreadful virus. The New York MTA chairman was diagnosed with COVID-19. He fiercely battled the virus and is back to his duties. However, a New Jersey Transit General Manager, passed away from complications of COVID-19.

Sadly, over one hundred transportation employees have lost their lives to COVID-19. Labor Unions are working in solidarity to demand these essential Amtrak employees' families, who may pass from COVID-19, be given additional life insurance.

At this time, we cannot stop what has taken place. However, we can do the right thing for these selfless essential employees who have risked their lives. Families of these brave men and women deserve to be protected, just as their deceased loved one protected transportation. We must take immediate action.

Hope, kindness, and perseverance are getting us through these horrific times. The integrity of these essential employees is indescribable. Employers can show their integrity during these times as well. We are asking Amtrak to take action by increasing life insurance benefits to Amtrak employees who pass due to COVID-19.

While we hope it does not become necessary to implement this for any of your members, we thank you as always for your continuing cooperation during this trying time.

The attached Unions are in support of this letter. We await your call and will make ourselves available promptly to discuss this important issue.

Very truly yours,

Michael Pistone
General Chairman
NCFO

Amtrak

John McCloskey

General Chairman

SMART-Mechanical Division

Don Grissom

Assistant General President

Brotherhood Railway Carmen Division

Josh Hartford

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