

Transportation Communications Union/IAM

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



Arthur P. Maratea
National President

October 1, 2020

Mr. William Flynn
President and Chief Executive Officer
Amtrak
One Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Flynn,

I'm writing on behalf of thousands of Amtrak workers to urge you to temporarily halt the 2,000 furloughs for two weeks to allow Congress and the Administration time to come to an agreement on the next COVID-19 relief package. I believe an agreement is close, and that there is a strong possibility that supplemental relief for Amtrak will be included, therefore the massive continued disruption to the jobs and placements of Amtrak workers – both furloughed and still employed - makes little sense in the short-term.

As National President of the Transportation Communications Union (TCU/IAM), representing the plurality of Amtrak workers – and those at risk of furlough, I share the responsibility with you regarding the well-being of my members, your employees. I know firsthand the devastating impact the furloughs will have on my members and their families, just as you undoubtedly understand the logistical and operational difficulty of maneuvering roster shifts, bumps, and reconfiguring the workforce to continue to operate a reduced business.

This is why it would behoove Amtrak to do whatever it can to halt the massive disruption the furloughs are taking across the railroad. It makes little sense to reposition employees, as many follow their craft and/or seniority, only to have a pending relief bill undo those maneuvers in the coming days. Many of my members have expressed concern regarding the necessity to relocate in order to retain their work, only to have to return should Amtrak relief pass.

We will know very shortly whether Congress and the Administration will act to provide Amtrak with the necessary funding to avert disaster for over 2,000 Amtrak workers. All I am asking if for you to “press pause” until a deal is made, or Congress adjourns.

Both of us must be able to communicate to Amtrak employees that we've done everything possible to keep them on the job, and furloughs come as last resort.

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Let us give Congress and the Administration time to work it out. Our people, and Amtrak, depend on it.

Sincerely,



Arthur P. Maratea
National President

cc: The Honorable Steven Mnuchin, Secretary of the Treasury
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader of the United States Senate
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Minority Leader of the United States Senate

TCU/IAM Executive Council