Pennsylvania Federation

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Office of the General Chairman Jed Dodd



February 4, 2010

To: All Amtrak Committees

Re: Amtrak Safe to Safer Program

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the Union's position on Amtrak's Safe to Safer program. We believe that this program, like all Labor/Management programs, should be negotiated with us and reduced to writing. Until we have an agreement on it we are not participating in it. We are talking to Amtrak management, but it is too early to tell how these talks will end. Amtrak has agreed, that until our discussions are completed they will not bring the program out to the BMWED membership.

We did agree that management can survey the membership about their attitudes towards Amtrak, without our interference, as long as the survey was voluntary. We understand that in some areas Amtrak did not make the survey voluntary and we believe that these problems will be corrected in the future.

Amtrak is planning another survey about the membership's attitudes towards their immediate managers. We don't see the harm in participating in this survey and believe that it will produce some useful information. We did tell Amtrak that if the survey is voluntary we will not interfere with it. Amtrak has informed us that it is their intention to make this survey voluntary.

While we are not in the Safe to Safer program, we do think it is beneficial to fill out the survey. This type of information will only help us to better understand the problems. We are open to negotiating an acceptable agreement that will permit us to participate in the Safe to Safer program, but until this occurs we will not participate in the program. Amtrak has informed us that they will not require membership participation while our talks continue.

I hope this clarifies the Union's role in this matter.

In Solidarity,

Jed Dodd

General Chairman