

*"An Injury To One Is An Injury To All"*

## **Pennsylvania Federation**

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Office of the General Chairman  
Jed Dodd

November 24, 2009

To: All Amtrak Committees

Re: Amtrak Stimulus Work

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

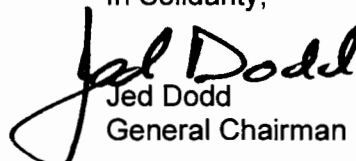
Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) the government has granted Amtrak an additional \$850,000,000 in capital money to start to bring Amtrak infrastructure and equipment into better repair. The ARRA requires that this money be used by February 2011.

The vast majority of the work to upgrade engineering department facilities paid for by ARRA investment will be performed by BMWED members. In fact, by the end of next year Amtrak will have hired 650 additional workers, on the NEC, into positions covered by the BMWED. While many new hires will only replace those that are leaving because of retirement or disability, this is the first time since 1980 that the overall man count on the NEC has actually increased.

Amtrak is insisting that to comply with the time requirements in the law, they need to use outside contractors for some of the work. This is a disputed issue between the Union and Amtrak and we have been meeting for the last several months to attempt to resolve it. Attached is an agreement on the stimulus projects which will involve the use of some contractors. We believe that for this group of stimulus projects we have protected our rights under the collective bargaining agreement and have secured some additional benefits. If we were unable to agree our only option would have been to pursue the issue in arbitration. We believe that reaching an agreement that we can live with is much better than having an arbitrator issue an agreement for us.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or the Vice Chairmen, each of whom worked very hard to ensure that the member's interests were protected in these arrangements.

In Solidarity,

  
Jed Dodd  
General Chairman