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International President

# Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers

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## EXTREMELY URGENT

ALL U.S. GENERAL CHAIRMEN AND  
STATE LEGISLATIVE BOARD CHAIRMEN

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

Amtrak is poised to totally shut down its entire operations next week, June 25th and 26th, with plans to file for bankruptcy on June 27th. This will occur unless Amtrak receives an immediate loan guarantee in the amount of \$265 million dollars. The Bush administration is strongly opposing funding for Amtrak greater than the \$521 million dollar budget proposal, which falls far short of the \$1.2 billion dollars that Amtrak has requested. Both Amtrak and Department of Transportation Inspector General Kenneth M. Mead have said that the \$521 million dollar subsidy would allow Amtrak to do little more than shut down.

It is extremely important that you encourage the members under your jurisdiction to contact the White House and leave a message stating that they support the long term funding of Amtrak. They should also contact both senators from their respective states and request that the senators oppose the administration's position on Amtrak funding and support long-term funding for Amtrak. They should make reference to the fact that the shut down of Amtrak will eliminate good paying jobs for 23,000 Amtrak employees.

The September 11th tragedy should have made everyone in this country aware of how important a national rail passenger network is to the country. If the United States Senate supports the Bush proposal on the Amtrak funding, this country will be one of the few industrialized countries in the world without a national rail passenger network.

Please treat this matter with extreme urgency and do everything within your power to encourage the members under your jurisdiction to act in accordance with the request as stated herein.

Fraternally yours,

President

cc: Advisory Board

RECEIVED  
Reading - IN  
Sir - Gary - Dave



JUN 23 2002

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