

Sisters and Brothers,

Last Friday evening we were made aware of a deal that was struck between the House and the Senate on a new Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Bill. A conference call was held that evening to discuss various aspects of the bill. The bill sets forth funding for the FAA well into the future, and also provides collective bargaining rights for Air Traffic Controllers, something they haven't had in many years. While this is a good bill from those aspects, unfortunately the IBEW, and many other transportation unions, take serious exception to provisions in the bill that adversely affect the Railway Labor Act and the National Mediation Board.

While we understand the urgency of, and are in favor and support of, Congress passing a FAA Reauthorization Bill, we want them to pass a "clean" bill, one that addresses FAA issues only and leaves untouched the Railway Labor Act and the National Mediation Board procedures. As such President Hill, along with many other leaders of Transportation Labor, have come out in opposition to the bill in its present form. A joint statement issued by these leaders is attached for your review and dissemination.

While a concerted lobbying effort is being undertaken to have this bill modified, we would appreciate you contacting you respective U.S. Congressmen and Senators and letting them know our position on this bill. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions pertaining to the above, please don't hesitate to contact this office.

Fraternally and in Solidarity,

Bill Bohné, Jr.

Director – IBEW Railroad Department

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