



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
 Washington, DC 20515

John L. Mica
 Chairman

Nick J. Rahall, II
 Ranking Member

November 3, 2011

James W. Coon II, Chief of Staff

James H. Zoin, Democrat Chief of Staff

RAIL LABOR DISPUTE & PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY BOARD:
LET COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RUN ITS COURSE

Dear Colleague:

On Saturday, November 5th, a **Presidential Emergency Board (PEB)** will release its report and recommendations to resolve an ongoing railroad-labor dispute between 30 freight railroads and two rail labor coalitions representing 70% of the freight rail workforce and start the clock on the final 30 days of collective bargaining.

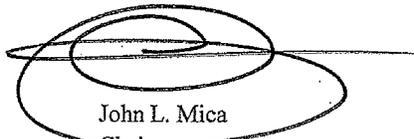
Over 85 years ago, Congress established the Railway Labor Act (RLA), which sets forth the collective bargaining process for railroad-labor disputes. Historically, the vast majority of disputes have been successfully resolved through this process. Pursuant to the RLA, a Presidential Emergency Board was established by President Obama on October 6, 2011. The PEB has until November 5, 2011, to investigate the current dispute and report its recommendations for resolution to the President. On November 6, 2011, a 30-day cooling-off period will begin, during which the parties may accept the PEB recommendations or continue to negotiate. The parties may not, however, engage in a strike or lockout until the end of those 30 days on December 6, 2011, at 12:01 a.m.

In the past 85 years, there have been 179 railroad-labor disputes that have gone to a PEB, and Congress has been forced to intervene in only 14 disputes, less than 8% of the time. **The best hope for achieving a mutually satisfactory outcome in this dispute lies with all parties utilizing the collective bargaining process to the fullest extent possible.**

For more information, the attached link will take you to a recent briefing memo on the current railroad-labor dispute and the PEB process:

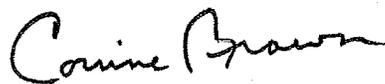
http://republicans.transportation.house.gov/Media/file/112th/Railroads/2011-10-21-PEB_Briefing_Memo.pdf. You may also contact staff for the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials at x60727.

Sincerely,


 John L. Mica
 Chairman


 Nick J. Rahall, II
 Ranking Member


 Bill Shuster
 Chairman
 Subcommittee on Railroads
 Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials


 Corrine Brown
 Ranking Member
 Subcommittee on Railroads
 Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials