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July 24, 2008

Sent via E-mail

Chairpersons
General Committees of Adjustment
U.S. Railroads
United Transportation Union

Re: NMB Public Law Board Funding

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The Republicans in Washington have caused a massive gridlock. All government agencies' fiscal year starts on October 1st. When Congress is unable to pass the necessary appropriations bills, it passes a short-term funding mechanism known as a Continuing Resolution (CR). Because of the situation, all agencies, including the NMB, will be forbidden by the Republican White House to spend any discretionary money.

What that means is that it will be very unlikely that the NMB will fund any public law boards. It is expected that this freeze will remain in place until well after the Inauguration on January 20, 2009. In fact, it will not be surprising that if this freeze stays in place as late as March.

I hope that this information is helpful as you make your plans for your committee for the future. We are hopeful for a significant November landslide for the Democrats and labor friendly Republicans that would correct the problem next year.

Fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. B. Futhey Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

M. B. Futhey Jr.
International President

cc: A. Martin, III, Assistant President
K. N. Thompson, General Secretary & Treasurer
International Officers

