

# PRESSRELEASE

TRANSPORTATION TRADES DEPARTMENT, AFL-CIO

January 15, 2021

## **Transportation labor leaders: Safety must be prioritized ahead of presidential inauguration**

*Washington, D.C. - Twenty-two transportation labor leaders issue this statement calling on prioritizing safety in advance of the Presidential Inauguration:*

“As the elected leaders of transportation unions that collectively represent millions of frontline employees, we are calling on every arm of federal, state, and local government to protect American workers and the public, ensure the orderly and peaceful transfer of power, and safeguard our democracy during the inauguration. While we stand firmly by the rights of every American to have and to share differing points of view, to peaceably assemble in support of those points of view, and to petition the government in hopes of affecting the direction of our country and its policies, these rights do not allow for violent attacks on our fellow Americans or our democratic institutions by domestic terrorists.

“The January 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol threatened our democracy and thousands of American lives. The actions taken by the individuals who attacked our Capitol, the right-wing militants who led them in doing so, and the elected government officials who enabled and even encouraged them, run counter to the very spirit of democracy and civil society. As a nation, it is incumbent upon each of us to take a firm stand against lawless mob rule by those who seek to upend the American values we hold so very sacred.

“Unfortunately, transportation workers and our passengers—as is too often the case—were placed squarely in harm’s way during, before, and after this repulsive assault on American democracy. We witnessed airline, transit, and rail workers diverted from their public safety

duties, threatened and harassed for doing their jobs, and assaulted in the line of duty. These essential workers—already under tremendous strain from the impacts of the ongoing pandemic—have sacrificed in service to our country during this time of our greatest need and it is all of our responsibility to ensure their safety and security. Amid ongoing threats of future violence—including Inauguration Day calls to arms by right-wing militants—frontline transportation workers are left wondering how they can protect themselves, their passengers, and our country going forward. This has gone too far, and it must stop.

“When it comes to our aviation, passenger rail, and transit systems, the working people who maintain and operate them, and the passengers who rely on them, safety must be the priority. There can be no exceptions. We are calling on the Departments of Homeland Security and Transportation, as well as their constituent agencies—in concert with transportation operators and federal, state, and local law enforcement—to use the full weight of the law to ensure safety onboard planes, trains, and buses, and pursue the strongest penalties against passengers who seek to sow chaos or incite violence.

“We stand in solidarity with all transportation workers across America as they continue to place their own well-being on the line in service to our country. We condemn the actions of President Trump, those in Congress who fanned the flames of hate and lawlessness, and every individual whose own actions that day and in the future undermine the rule of law in our democracy.”

*Jerry C. Boles*

*James T. Callahan*

*Joe DePete*

*President*

*General President*

*President*

*Brotherhood of Railroad  
Signalmen*

*International Union of  
Operating Engineers*

*Air Line Pilots Association,  
International*

*Dean Devita*

*President*

*National Conference of  
Firemen & Oilers, SEIU*

*Jeremy R. Ferguson*

*President*

*International Association of  
Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and*

*Transportation Workers –  
Transportation Division*

*Newton B. Jones*

*International President*

*International Brotherhood of  
Boilermakers*

*Everett Kelley*

*National President*

*American Federation of  
Government Employees*

*Arthur Maratea*

*National President*

*Transportation  
Communications Union/IAM*

*Donald Marcus*

*International President*

*International Organization of  
Masters, Mates & Pilots*

*F. Leo McCann*

*President*

*American Train Dispatchers  
Association*

*Sara Nelson*

*International President*

*Association of Flight  
Attendants-CWA*

*Sito Pantoja*

*General Vice President,  
Transportation*

*International Association of  
Machinists*

*and Aerospace Workers*

*Mike Perrone*

*National President*

*Professional Aviation Safety  
Specialists*

*Greg Regan*

*Secretary-Treasurer*

*Transportation Trades  
Department, AFL-CIO*

*Paul Rinaldi*

*President*

*National Air Traffic Controllers  
Association*

*Fredric V. Rolando*

*John Samuelson*

*Joseph Sellers, Jr.*

*National President*

*International President*

*General President*

*National Association of Letter  
Carriers*

*Transport Workers Union of  
America*

*International Association of  
Sheet Metal,*

*Air, Rail and Transportation  
Workers*

*Christopher M. Shelton*

*Lonnie R. Stephenson*

*D. Taylor*

*President*

*International President*

*President*

*Communications Workers of  
America*

*International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers*

*UNITE HERE International  
Union*

*Randi Weingarten*

*President*

*American Federation of  
Teachers*