

August 27, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the undersigned national railway labor unions, we write to unanimously recommend and support Johnathan D. Bragg, the Vice President of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (BRS), to serve as the next Labor Member on the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB). After 8 years of service, Walter A. Barrows, the current RRB Labor Member, has informed us of his intent to retire from the Board.

As you know, employees in the railroad industry are covered under a separate retirement system which is administered by the RRB. This unique system, funded solely by the industry and its employees, has provided retirement, unemployment, disability, and survivor benefits for millions of rail workers. These benefits and services are essential to the lives of rail employees and their families. To help ensure that the system protects the interests of rail workers, Section 7(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 dictates that the President must nominate one candidate to the Board based on the "recommendations made by representatives of the employees." We strongly endorse Jonathan D. Bragg to serve as the next Labor Member of the RRB.

Mr. Bragg comes from a long family of railroaders and began his own railroad career 18 years ago as a freight conductor and later a signalman. He has climbed the leadership ranks as a Local Chairman, Grand Lodge Representative, Director of Research, and more recently assigned to represent BRS as a permanent Board Member of the National Railroad Adjustment Board. Mr. Bragg's long and accomplished career has prepared him for this role. As the Labor Member, Mr. Bragg will bring an invaluable level of experience, knowledge, and understanding of the needs of rail workers, retirees, and their families who rely on the system.

For these reasons, we strongly recommend you nominate Johnathan D. Bragg to serve as the Labor Member of the RRB as you work to ensure the agency's full board member capacity.

Sincerely,



W.D. Pickett
President
Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen



F.L. McCann
President
American Train Dispatchers Association



Sito Pantoja
General Vice President
International Association of Machinists and
Aerospace Workers



John Mansker
Director of Railroad Division Services
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers,
Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers
and Helpers



Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers



John Thacker
Conference President
National Conference of Firemen and
Oilers, SEIU



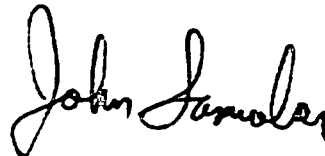
Tony Iannone
Director of Railroad and Shipyard Workers
Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation
Workers



John Previsich
President
Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation
Workers-Transportation Division



Robert Scardelletti
National President
Transportation Communications Union




John Samuelson
International President
Transport Workers Union of America



Tim Barnes
Assistant to the President
UNITEHERE!



Dennis R. Pierce
National President
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and
Trainmen



Freddie N. Simpson
President
Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way
Employees Division of the IBT

cc: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer
Chairman Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member Patty Murray