



ATDA extends its thanks to Chairman DeFazio, Senator Markey and Chairman Payne:

ATDA wishes to thank Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio for his leadership in advancing critical transportation infrastructure legislation and for consistently advancing the cause of working men and women in rail labor. Chairman DeFazio has steadfastly supported the rights of workers on issues such as job safety, collective bargaining and transit and passenger rail funding. Chairman DeFazio was instrumental in moving the General Accounting Office to create a study on the impacts of Precision Scheduled Railroading on Workers, Safety and Shippers and has introduced the INVEST in America Act in his committee. This bill will provide the funding necessary to bring the U.S. transportation system into the 21st Century and adequately fund Transit and Passenger Rail for the foreseeable future. We support and applaud Chairman DeFazio in his efforts on behalf of rail labor and, indeed, on behalf of all Americans invested in our Nation's transportation system.

The ATDA also wishes to extend its appreciation to Mass. Senator Edward Markey. Senator Markey has been a tireless supporter of Rail Labor and the men and women who are the frontline workers in the rail industry. Our national rail system is vital to the economic health and well-being of our country, and our rail workers are essential in that effort. Senator Markey has consistently supported these employees with legislation in the Senate Commerce Committee that would extend and strengthen the safety of our railroads and that of the people who work for them. Senator Markey has been a champion of rail workers specifically in his home state of Massachusetts and generally throughout America. ATDA is pleased to extend our thanks and continued support to Senator Markey.

We would also like to congratulate and thank Rep. Donald Payne, Jr. of New Jersey. Congressman Payne now chairs the Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, a position of importance to Rail Labor that cannot be overstated. Chairman Payne held a virtual meeting with Rail Labor shortly after taking the helm of his subcommittee to discuss priorities that we would share for the new session. He expressed a warm regard for rail labor and workers along with a serious approach to addressing the issues important to them and ATDA is confident that his stewardship of this vital subcommittee will be a great success. A number of issues such as funding, safety, adequate oversight and front-line worker protection from abuse were matters of priority. We look forward to supporting Chairman Payne on these issues and more as we work together to improve the lives and livelihood of America's railroad workers.

At this time ATDA would also like to express its gratitude to the often unsung heroes who work tirelessly on our behalf. We speak, of course, of the many staffers in these Congressional offices and those at the Transportation Trades Department within the AFL-CIO who do much of the heavy lifting in successfully crafting and passing legislation important to us. Without them we could not succeed in our efforts to effectively represent our Members in the constant struggle for workplace justice. We thank you all.