



March 27, 2007

**The Rail and Public Transportation Security Act of 2007:
Oppose Sessions Amendment
Oppose Flake Amendment on Over-the-Road Bus
Support Lynch Amendment**

Dear Representative:

Yesterday, I wrote to ask for your support for the Rail and Public Transportation Security Act of 2007 (H.R. 1401) when it is considered on the House floor. Today, I write regarding several amendments that will be offered to this bill.

First, Rep. Pete Sessions is expected to offer an amendment that would prohibit the use of certain security grants for Amtrak's ten least profitable long-distance routes. We strongly oppose this effort and urge you vote against it. Amtrak, a critical part of our national transportation network, is in significant need of security upgrades throughout its system. We know that passenger rail is a target of terrorist elements. To arbitrarily deny security funds based on the economic returns of certain routes makes no sense and is completely contrary to sound security policy. Those that wish us harm do not care about targeting only those routes that "make a profit" and our security grant program must recognize this reality.

TTD also opposes the Flake Amendment to eliminate the Over-the-Road Bus Security Assistance grant program. Intercity buses serve those who truly need public transportation and the bus security grant program included in the bill is absolutely critical to ensuring the security of passengers and workers. In fact, we know that 47% of worldwide surface transportation terrorists attacks target buses. Since 9/11, U.S. bus companies have invested heavily in security upgrades, and federal funding has been essential to this effort. Funds previously authorized by Congress allowed bus companies to screen millions of passengers, install driver shields and/or emergency communications systems on thousands of buses, upgrade terminal and garage security and provide security training for thousands of employees. The funds authorized in this bill will enable those vital efforts to continue.

TTD supports the Lynch Amendment that would enhance and compliment the security training provisions already in the base bill. Specifically, the amendment would require TSA to survey public transportation workers to determine whether the training required in the bill is actually getting done and is effective. In addition, TSA would report to Congress on the progress employers are making in training their workforce. TTD supports this effort to solicit worker feedback and monitor the implementation of the important worker security training program included in H.R. 1401.

Again, on behalf of transportation labor, I urge you to oppose the Sessions Amendment and the Flake Over-the-Road Bus Amendment. Transportation labor asks you to vote for the Lynch Amendment.

If you have any questions about these or other issues with this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me or Larry Willis at 202/628-9262.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward Wytkind", written over a white background.

Edward Wytkind
President

Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO

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