

## **Amtrak Funding**

**WHEREAS**, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Division (BLET) and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Division (BMWED) of the Teamster Rail Conference represent over 70,000 railroad workers, and

**WHEREAS**, the work performed by Rail Teamsters employed by Amtrak is critical to the strength of the U.S. economy and the nation's environment, and

**WHEREAS**, Amtrak was created in 1971 with the explicit purpose to "provide uniform and rising standards of service for all United States citizens," and

**WHEREAS**, over the last half century, and despite political attempts to kill the service, the hostility and sabotage of host freight rail carriers, starvation of capital investment, and chronic equipment shortages, ridership has steadily increased while operating costs have increasingly been covered by the fare box, and

**WHEREAS**, with the demise of small-town airports and the elimination of bus service, the train is often the only form of public transportation available to thousands of small communities nationwide, and

**WHEREAS**, the long-distance trains – together with the regional state supported services and local commuter services – form the basis of the national passenger train network, and

**WHEREAS**, in the face of crumbling and overcrowded highway infrastructure; rising fuel prices; environmental degradation; crowded airports; and a rising death toll on the nation's highways, passenger trains offer a modern, environmentally sensitive, convenient, safe, efficient, productive and relaxing way for Americans to travel from place to place, while providing good paying, meaningful employment to thousands of workers, and

**WHEREAS**, significant emergency funding has been provided to protect Amtrak jobs and services during the COVID pandemic, and

**WHEREAS**, the Biden administration has proposed infrastructure legislation to continue to support, and to expand Amtrak service, including high-speed passenger rail transportation, and

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the delegates to the 30<sup>th</sup> International Brotherhood of Teamsters Convention go on record in support of full funding for Amtrak, to maintain service levels at no less than Fiscal Year 2019 levels, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the delegates to the 30<sup>th</sup> International Brotherhood of Teamsters Convention go on record in support of appropriating all capital funding necessary to restore the Amtrak system to a state of good repair, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the delegates to the 30th International Brotherhood of Teamsters Convention go on record in support of additional funding to increase high-speed rail service so that Amtrak's original legislative goal can be realized, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the delegates to the 30th International Brotherhood of Teamsters Convention go on record in support of legislative requirements that all rail inter-city passenger service providers must be subject to the same legal requirements that apply to Amtrak workers, and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the delegates to the 30th International Brotherhood of Teamsters Convention go on record as opposing any and all attempt by Amtrak management, the U.S. Congress, the President or the freight rail carriers to downgrade, erode or eliminate U.S. passenger train service.