

January 29, 2004

All members of
ARASA, IAM, IBEW, IBEW- Foremen Supervisors,
IBT, NCFO-SEIU, SMWIA, TCU and TWU

Brothers and Sisters,

We the undersigned unions collectively representing 73% of the employees at Metro North Railroad want to make it perfectly clear that the tentative ACRE agreement does not establish a pattern on the property. It is our position that the potential consequences for all present and future employees are disastrous.

The Medical give-back in particular will have profound negative effects on all current and future generations of railroad employees. Ultimately the effect will be to make all employees pay insurance premiums in future negotiations by setting up a permanent division of the membership. Second class employees will be permanently embittered and unable to commit to common issues with the other members. At some point they will form a majority of each Organization.

Workers across the country are fighting these same battles. Close to home at the Oyster Bar in GCT, HERE, AFL-CIO workers have been on strike for seven weeks defending the medical benefits of their future workers. LIRR, and other commuter rail workers have fought off Medical payments. Furthermore, if this agreement is ratified, our members will fall further behind their counterparts at the LIRR and the other commuter railroads

In addition the concession of the Life Insurance will have adverse consequences for our members. Uncapping the 3% contribution, as well, will have the effect of making workers pay for benefits they will never receive.

Collectively we will resist the tentative ACRE agreement in form and content to the greatest degree possible.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

William Mills
General Chairman
ARASA Local 5041, AFL-CIO

Richard Lombardi
General Chairman
IBEW System Council 7, AFL-CIO

Timothy Grandfield
President
TWU Local 2055, AFL-CIO

Dean DeVita
General Chairman
NCFO SEIU, System Council 2, AFL-CIO

Charles Fraley
General Chairman
SMWIA, AFL-CIO

Norman Brown
General Chairman
IAM District 19, AFL-CIO

Lee Martin
Vice President
IBEW Foremen Supervisors Local 1573, AFL-CIO

Pete McMahon
President
TWU Local 2001, AFL-CIO

Chris Silvera
Secretary Treasurer
IBT, Local 808, AFL-CIO

William Kelaher
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TCU System Board 86, AFL-CIO