

## METRO NORTH LABOR COALITION

November 10, 2005

Mr. Peter A. Cannito, President  
Metro North Commuter Railroad  
347 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Cannito:

I am the Spokesman for the Metro-North Labor Coalition. The Coalition includes the following unions representing approximately 70% of the employees on Metro-North Railroad: American Railway & Airway Supervisors Association, TCU/IAM Lodge 5041 (ARASA Maintenance of Equipment Supervisors and Maintenance of Way Supervisors); International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers District Lodge 19; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers System Council 7 and Local 1573; International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 808; National Conference of Firemen & Oilers, SEIU, System Council 2; Sheet Metal Workers International Association; Transportation Communications Union/IAM, System Board 86 and Districts 227, 1043, and 1402; Transport Workers Union of America Locals 2001 & 2055.

As you are aware, the Coalition is currently engaged in collective bargaining with the Metro-North Railroad under the authority of the National Mediation Board over wages, benefits, and working conditions for the period beginning January 1, 2003.

On November 3, 2005, Metro-North Railroad expended MTA funds in a manner that we believe is both illegal and inappropriate. In a blatant attempt to circumvent the duly certified representatives of the various unions listed above, Metro-North management sanctioned a meeting of our members with the officers of the Association of Commuter Rail Employees (ACRE) to promulgate management's bargaining position and to discuss decertification of the existing unions.

The facts are as follows. On November 3, 2005, representatives of the ACRE Organization put out word to Grand Central Terminal Metro-North employees belonging to many of the Coalition unions that a "MTA Informational Meeting" was to take place at noon to discuss Metro-North negotiations. The meeting was held at ACRE's office at 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite, 215, New York, NY 10017 which is located in Grand Central Terminal.

Metro-North management was fully aware that the ACRE representatives were engaged in this activity while on the payroll of Metro-North.

At the meeting, the ACRE leaders, while under the pay of Metro-North, told our members that they should agree to Metro-North management's position in the ongoing negotiations with the Coalition unions. The ACRE leaders attacked the Coalition unions for not agreeing to management's position, and discussed decertification.

The ACRE leaders have no direct interest in the outcome of the Coalition unions' negotiations with Metro-North, as ACRE already has agreed to a contract settlement for the same contract period. Instead, the ACRE leaders acted solely in the interest and on behalf of Metro-North management, while being paid by said management. Metro-North management was fully aware that the meeting was taking place, and what its purpose was.

It is our view that Metro-North, through its ACRE agents, engaged in illegal interference and direct dealing. We have asked the New York State Attorney General and Inspector General to investigate these improper activities.

Metro-North's reckless conduct threatens to escalate an already explosive situation. Using paid Metro-North representatives to discuss decertification amounts to union busting pure and simple. Sponsoring employee meetings at which the company's bargaining position is espoused constitutes illegal direct dealing.

Representatives of the Coalition unions would like to meet with you to discuss this matter before we decide what, if any, further action to take. Please contact me to discuss possible dates.

Sincerely yours,

Joel Parker  
Coalition Spokesman