

METRO NORTH LABOR COALITION

November 10, 2005

Office of New York State Inspector General
61 Broadway, Suite 12
New York, New York 10006-2724

Dear Inspector General:

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.

Pursuant to the Railway Labor Act, 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. (ACRE's top leaders are compensated by Metro-North with their full wages and health and welfare benefits.)

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 request that you investigate this egregious misuse of taxpayer funds.

Sincerely yours,

Joel Parker
Coalition Spokesman

cc: 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