

To the Members of the MetroNorth Coalition:

January 11, 2000

re: ACRE:

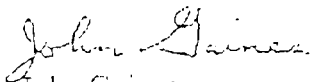
Dear Sirs:

In keeping with the cooperative spirit that brought the MetroNorth Coalition into being, I feel it is both necessary and respectful that I take this opportunity to explain the thinking behind the newly formed Association of Commuter Rail Employees (ACRE). As you know, the General Committees of both the BLE, UTU and more recently the ATDD-BLE have been working together on contracts and agreements for some time. Faced with the uncertainties presented by the ongoing war our Internationals are waging against each other, we believed it was in the best interests of our members to pool our resources and form an independent organization. This is the reason and the only reason that "A" cards were distributed, collected, and filed with the National Mediation Board.

This first step having been taken, I want to personally assure the other members of MetroNorth's Coalition that we have no intention, desire or plans to have our new Association ever expand beyond the transportation employees who form our community of interest (engineers, conductor/trainmen, RTC's, yardmasters and power supervisors). Furthermore, we hope that once we are successful we will be accepted into the MetroNorth Coalition as participants in the spirit of unity and cooperation shared by all its members.

I thank you for your time and hope this letter clears up any misconceptions or misunderstandings.

Respectfully yours,



John Gaines
Director of ACRE