



united transportation union

July 1, 2002

Honorable Paul Tokasz
Assemblyman / Majority Leader
LOB Room 926
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Hon. Mr. Tokasz:

Your sponsorship of Bill A8636 exhibited concern for safety of employees on Metro North. If this bill is enacted into law, it may help prevent assaults on Metro North train service employees. Unfortunately, incidence of harassment or assaults of train service personnel is on the rise. The prominent display of the law's provisions and the promise of severe penalties for assaulting a train service employee may not be enough of a deterrent to reduce the frequency of these attacks. It is possible relief could be contingent upon the ability of a miscreant's comprehension of the ramifications of such an attack, or worse, the potential offender may not care about the consequences of such action. A remote possibility also exists for acts of terrorism on board Metro North and other Carrier's passenger trains in New York State.

Some Metro North revenue passenger trains operate with a conductor only train crew. The presence of an additional crew member will present less opportunity for assault on train crew members and provide greater ability for assistance in the event of an assault on a crew member or passengers. Currently, the Carrier possesses exclusive right to structure the size of train crews. Metro North stated shortly after its inception that the Carrier would assume responsibility for safety aboard trains. This position is proper, but it is generally practical to apply the most stringent preventative measures possible to ensure safe conditions will exist on board trains for crew and passengers alike.

I have spoken with State Legislative Director Sam Nasca regarding this issue, and Sam is reviewing prior legislation pertaining to train crew requirements, and if necessary will draft a new bill for crew assist. Any proposed legislation will seek to ensure each revenue passenger train in New York State will have a minimum of one conductor and one assistant conductor to comprise the train crew.

It is possible Sam may prevail upon you to sponsor this potential legislation in the State Assembly. Your previous assistance in this area of concern is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Art May'.

Art May

AM/iyt