



Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division

# BMWED LEGISLATIVE ALERT

## Amtrak Reauthorization/Reform

### Senate Bill 1516

11/2/05

This office has just been informed that Senators Lott (R-MS) and Lautenberg (D-NJ) will be offering an amendment to the Budget Reconciliation bill (S. 1932) which the Senate is currently considering. The amendment offers S. 1516, the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2005, to the reconciliation package. *Debate on this amendment will be from 3-3:30 today, with a vote expected tomorrow.*

It is extremely urgent that BMWED members contact their Senators and ask them to please support the Lott/Lautenberg amendment (S. 1516) to the Budget Reconciliation package. A complete listing of United States Senators can be found at [www.bmwe.org](http://www.bmwe.org) or [www.bmwewash.org](http://www.bmwewash.org).

By adding S. 1516 to reconciliation, we can assure Senate consideration of the bill this fall and significantly strengthen our chances of enacting a strong Amtrak reauthorization soon. Without such action, opportunities to consider the bill are few. And, without an authorization, Amtrak remains exposed to attack and manipulation by the Administration and without congressional guidance as to how to proceed on important initiatives needed to improve service.

Also attached is a summary of S. 1516 provided by the Senate Commerce Committee.

Danny Gates  
Director of Government Affairs