



# **BMWED LEGISLATIVE ALERT**

## **AMTRAK FY 2006 FUNDING**

On November 30, President Bush signed legislation that will fund Amtrak through 2006.

The 1.3 billion dollar appropriation is actually a \$108 million dollar increase over current funding and is broken down as follows:

\$495 million for Operating Subsidies.

\$780 Million for Maintenance and Capital Infrastructure Repair.

There is also a provision that states Amtrak can use part of the \$780 million to cover some of its debt service obligations.

The \$1.3 billion dollar Amtrak subsidy was part of a massive \$137.6 billion dollar FY 2006 transportation funding bill (H.R. 3058), and should not be confused with the Amtrak legislation (S. 1516) pending in Congress by Senators Lott & Lautenberg addressing the long-term financing provisions. Senator Lott added S. 1516 as an amendment to the Budget Reconciliation package (S. 1932) on Nov. 3.

Although the Bush Administration tried in vane to break up and liquidate Amtrak, they were unsuccessful this year.

On behalf of President Simpson I would like to thank everyone who assisted and worked so hard to keep Amtrak operational. It was as usual a time consuming and costly endeavor, but we were able to maintain a Class 1 carrier that employs many of our members.

Danny Gates  
Director of Government Affairs  
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