

Unions Picket Amtrak Board Chairman Anthony Coscia

June 3, 2013

Today the PRLBC set up a picket line in front of the the law offices of Amtrak Board Chairman Anthony Coscia. Undaunted by morning rain showers, 150 BMWED and BRS rail workers staged a sidewalk picket and leaflet campaign against Amtrak's top executive. Mr. Coscia has ignored our requests to meet and resolve our contract dispute. By definition this is bad-faith bargaining. To answer Amtrak's bad-faith, the PRLBC handed out 20,000 "Union Buster" leaflets to New Brunswick's morning rail commuters while other rail workers protested in front of the law offices of Coscia, who is a partner with Windels, Marx, Lane and Mittendorf.

Our message today was simple... we require the Amtrak Board under Anthony Coscia's direction to insist that the National Mediation Board release the parties from mediation and allow the collective bargaining process to develop as was intended. In this connection, the PRLBC wrote to Coscia over a month ago and he has yet to offer any type of response. Today we were in Coscia's face prepared to discuss resolution of our contract. He would not meet with us. Touted as a liberal democrat, Coscia demonstrates that he is but another boss engaging in attacks on the collective bargaining rights of American workers.

The PRLBC was supported by members of the BMWED Commuter Rail System Division, the New Jersey State Industrial Union Council, USLaborAgainstWar, CATA, the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, Philadelphia Jobs with Justice, Philadelphia Hospital Workers Union, the Labor Campaign for Single Payer, the American Association of University Professionals, the New Jersey Teachers Union, and Communication Workers of America.

Additionally, representatives of all 5 Amtrak BMWED Systems, Divisions, or Federations including General Chairman Dale Bogart of the Northeastern Federation, and Vice-Chairman Darrell McGuire of the Illinois Central Gulf Federation, who both offered words of encouragement to Amtrak's Rail Workers and spoke to Amtrak's bad-faith bargaining and attack on worker's rights.

Information is currently being delivered to our committees detailing the specifics of our next Amtrak protest event.

Thanks to everyone who participated today, and for the sacrifices they've made for rail labor.

More information on our contract struggle can be found on our web site at PennFedBMWE.org > Amtrak > Negotiations > 2010 Going Forward

You may also contact Mr. Coscia to express your displeasure with Amtrak's bad-faith bargaining.

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