



RAIL LABOR BARGAINING COALITION

George Francisco, Jr.
Chairman

April 18, 2005

Robert F. Allen, Chairman
National Railway Labor Conference
1901 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-3514

American Train Dispatchers Association
F. L. McCann
President

Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen/IBT
Don M. Hahs
National President

Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees/IBT
Freddie N. Simpson
President

Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen
W. Dan Pickert
President

International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Building, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers
Alan M. Schoer
Director, Railroad Division

National Conference of Firemen and Oilers, SEIU
George J. Francisco, Jr.
President

Sheet Metal Workers International Association
Dewey B. Garland
Director, Railroad and Shipyard Department

Dear Mr. Allen:

This is in further reference to our meeting of April 4, 2005, with Msrs. Wilder and Gradia, and your telephone conversation of April 12th with Mr. Wilder, in which you were advised that the RLBC's members thought that sufficient progress had been made over process issues, so that substantive meetings between the NCCC and RLBC should be scheduled.

It is our understanding that NCCC agrees to the following:

1. The parties will work together to schedule in advance bargaining sessions for each calendar quarter. The schedule may be adjusted or supplemented as warranted by the parties.
2. The parties will attempt to align related common and craft-specific issues, so that suitable representatives will be available to take part in all negotiations according to one or more formats agreed to by the parties.
3. Bargaining sessions will be held at locations mutually agreed to by the parties. Costs for off-site locations will be shared in accordance with past practice.
4. Experts in subjects germane to issues under discussion may be designated by either or both parties to attend bargaining sessions and participate on their behalf.



Robert F. Allen, Chairman
April 14, 2005
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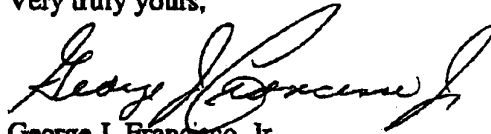
We also recognize that NCCC has not agreed to paragraphs 1-3 and 7-11 of our March 9, 2005 proposal. Except for the information issues described in paragraph 7, the RLBC is content to put aside the unresolved process issues because we are persuaded that those issues need not be faced now.

With respect to paragraph 7, we will provide examples of the types of information that, in our view, are necessary and relevant to informed negotiation over the changes in rates of pay, rules and working conditions sought in this bargaining round. Rather than presenting an extensive information request at the outset, we would prefer to resolve information issues in functional terms, that is, during consideration of specific economic and rules proposals. Please understand that we remain adamant in our belief that good-faith negotiations require full disclosure of pertinent economic circumstances. NCCC members will neither achieve their bargaining goals nor convince us to moderate bargaining proposals important to employees without supplying quantifiable data and other information necessary for informed discussions.

RLBC members are prepared to meet with the NCCC during the week beginning May 15th in Washington. In terms of the future, RLBC members usually attend meetings of the Transportation Trades Division, AFL-CIO, which are scheduled on the second Tuesday of each month, and so could be available for bargaining later during those weeks.

Please advise whether we can meet during the suggested week in May 2005.

Very truly yours,



George J. Francisco, Jr.
Chairman
Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition

cc: RLBC Members
R.P. Wilder, Jr., Esq.