



CAPITAL CITY LODGE 1145
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS

Directing General Chairman
IAM District 19
Joe Duncan:

March 9, 2011

Dear Sir and Brother:

We are writing to you concerning the current stalled negotiations with the National Carriers Conference, now past contract expiration by more than a year. Despite their record profits, the railroad carriers are again stonewalling their workers and union representatives, demanding further concessions.

This is simply unacceptable. Further, it is unacceptable that we go through another round of contract talks without our unions mobilizing the membership to put pressure on the railroad corporations. We should be organizing red shirt Fridays, informational picketing and other actions in support of our contract demands.

The only thing that will be accomplished by letting the talks drag on with no action by the members will be another concession settlement.

For us in the Albany, New York area, the cost of living is higher than other parts of the country. This makes compensation a critical factor for us. A diesel mechanic earning \$50,000 a year in Paducah, Kentucky, for example, would have to earn \$60,000 a year in Albany to maintain the same standard of living. (<http://www.payscale.com/cost-of-living-calculator/New-York-Albany/Kentucky-Paducah/Diesel-Mechanic>) This unevenness in living costs is true for other areas as well.

Enough is enough. Railroad workers need a real raise in pay. Railroad workers need serious improvements in our working conditions. The current IAM working agreement for CSX is dated 1994. That is 16 years ago! It is time to organize ourselves for a real fight with the railroad barons.

We the undersigned IAM members are ready for a battle. We await some sign from you that our IAM leaders are too.

In Solidarity,

L. L. 1145 Recording Secretary - Jeremy Royer

L. L. 1145 President/Local Chairman - John Lynch Sr.