



March 6, 2020

SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY

Mr. Ronald J. Batory  
Administrator - Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Batory:

The undersigned have growing concern regarding reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other reputable sources, that COVID-19 disease (coronavirus) is spreading in the United States, with at least 231 patients treated in 22 states, and at least 14 deaths at the present time. We and other rail labor Organizations take this issue very seriously, and we have been monitoring it closely.

As you are likely already aware, over the last several weeks multiple departments within the Department of Transportation (more specifically, the Federal Transit Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, and the Maritime Administration) have issued guidelines to employers on how to approach this issue, along with statements and guidelines focused on educating and protecting the crew members, passengers, and consumers who may be impacted by this deadly disease. To our knowledge, the FRA has overlooked, or perhaps outright disregarded, its responsibility to get involved with this matter.

In view of the above, we are urging you to issue similar guidelines directed towards US rail carriers, employees, and passengers, pertaining to, at minimum:

- Sanitizing equipment such as (but not limited to) locomotive cabs, computers, remote control boxes, and communal areas such as passenger cars, offices, crew staging areas, company provided ground transportation, and away-from-home lodging facilities.
- Providing crews and passengers with personal protective equipment, alcohol-based hand sanitizer strong enough to kill viruses, and other cleaning supplies as deemed appropriate.
- Encouraging employees to stay home if they have respiratory symptoms, (coughing, sneezing, shortness of breath, and/or fever) and to leave work if they develop such symptoms while at the workplace. In doing so, we ask that FRA strongly encourage carriers to relax current attendance policies which

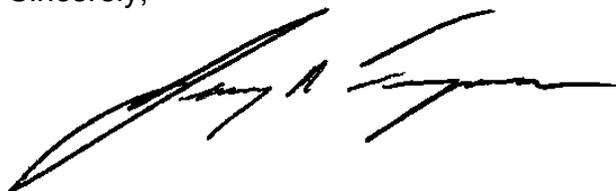
can be described as unforgiving, at best, to employees who miss work due to illness.

- Educating all rail employees (including supervisory staff) on the appropriate guidelines for self-monitoring of their health condition, as well as monitoring and addressing others who appear to be symptomatic.
- Reporting to the appropriate health departments where employees have shown aforementioned symptoms that prevent them from carrying out their assigned duties.
- Developing plans for employees who reside with, and/or come into direct contact with individuals who are symptomatic.
- Encouraging carriers to develop health programs and practices which exceed FRA's recommended guidelines.
- Encouraging all parties to understand and comply with other such guidelines issued by the CDC.

Further, we ask that you provide continual updates to these guidelines, as other departments have done. Please advise of your plans pertaining to this very serious situation.

We thank you, in advance, for your time and attention to this matter, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Jeremy R. Ferguson  
President, SMART Transportation Division



Dennis R. Pierce  
President, Brotherhood of Locomotive  
Engineers and Trainmen