



Amalgamated Transit Union

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Office of the International President

November 8, 2019

Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO
815 16th Street NW, 4th Floor
Washington DC 20006
Attn: Member Union Presidents

Sisters and Brothers,

As you may have heard, ATU Local 689 is engaged in a historic strike struggle at a recently-privatized WMATA Metrobus garage in Lorton, Virginia. After decades of public ownership and operation of the Metrobus system, WMATA chose to outsource a newly-built bus garage to French multinational contractor Transdev. It is the first step in a multi-year plan by the agency that we believe will lead to the privatization of all transit services in the nation's capital.

On this sixteenth day of the strike, our members at the Cinder Bed Road facility remain steadfast. Zero workers have left the picket line to return to work. Increasingly, the focus of anger from the riding public and the strikers is rightly aimed at WMATA and its leadership, who chose this path. While we believe WMATA and WMATA alone can resolve this fight, we are well aware that Transdev, as a company desperate for cash flow, will go to great lengths to break the strike and preserve their revenue agreements.

To that end, the company has been trying to scrape up scabs from across North America, especially preying on retirees or members unaware that they are being recruited to become strikebreakers. We have put out a call to all of our ATU Locals with Transdev bargaining units to ensure they remain vigilant and communicate with active and retired members alike about Transdev's tactics.

I write today to ask the same of you. If you represent members in the transportation sector who are employed by Transdev, we ask that you communicate with your Local Unions and ensure that they, too, are on the lookout for scab-herding operations by any name. If people are being recruited to Northern Virginia to operate, maintain, clean, or otherwise service buses, it is in order to break our strike.

If you do not have members in our sector or who are employed by Transdev, I ask that you consider contributing to the Cinder Bed Road strike fund, which you can do at bit.ly/cinderbedstrike. If you have headquarters based in the DC region, there are a multitude of ways that you can stand in solidarity with us. Please contact ATU organizer Todd Brogan at tbrogan@atu.org to learn more.

I'm so grateful to those unions who have stepped up already, and I want you to know that I and the entire ATU stand ready to support all TTD affiliates as they engage in similar struggles. Together we fight, and together we win!

In solidarity,

John A. Costa
International President

Affiliated with American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations and Canadian Labour Congress

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