

Interim Report of the Dunlop Committee Reports Review Committee ("Dunlop II")

December 2, 2009

On August 7, 2009, the National Mediation Board announced that it was "celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> year of service to the nation" and at the same time created this Dunlop Committee Reports Review Committee to "initiate an independent examination of the Dunlop Committee Reports" (1994-96) "in order to improve the Agency's internal structure and further relationships with the industries." The Committee Members congratulate the Board on its creation of the Dunlop II project, which demonstrates its concern for service and improvement.

The Committee is issuing this Interim Report to the Board today, December 2, 2009, on the day designated by the Board to recognize and honor its rich 75 year history.

The Committee has met with numerous representatives of the airline and railroad industries and labor organizations served by the Board as well as some of the Board's key staff members. We are focusing particular attention on the critical mediation functions of the Board. The Board's mediation functions are universally seen by the parties as vital to their ability to resolve collective bargaining disputes. All parties recognize that the Board has been successful in navigating the parties towards resolutions in the past, but can improve its effectiveness. We have identified a number of concerns of the parties with regard to the Board's delivery of its services, about which we are continuing to gather information and will make recommendations.

While we anticipate completing our report in early 2010, we thought it would be useful at this point to make one recommendation where there appears to be near unanimity amongst the parties and which may enable the Board to get a head start on implementing the change. In the past, the Board has had a position called Executive Secretary, Executive Director, or Chief of Staff. Such a position was in place for the vast majority of the Board's history since 1934. The position has, in the past, varied in its functions and purposes: it has coordinated between Board members, served to communicate between the Board and the parties, and effectuated Board requirements of its staff.

The Committee recommends the re-creation of such a position in order to enhance the Board's cohesion and effectiveness. The Committee feels it would be inappropriate to delineate the precise powers and functions of such a position, however, and defers such determinations to the Board. Of course the Board may choose to adopt or not this recommendation; if adopted, we believe that careful consideration should be given to such a position's purposes and description.

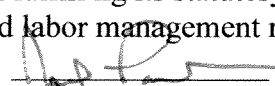
The Committee joins the Board, the parties, the whole Railway Labor Act labor-management community and the public in celebrating and honoring the long and successful work of the National Mediation Board in fulfilling its statutory mission and serving the interests of the public and fostering good labor management relations.

  
Rob DeLucia

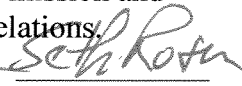
Airline Management

  
Ken Gradia

Railroad Management

  
Joel Parker

Rail Labor

  
Seth Rosen

Airline Labor