



**NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rail Carriers/ Rail Labor Organizations
Railroad Referees/Neutrals

FROM: Terri D. Brown *Terri D Brown*
Director, Arbitration Services

Michael Jerger
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: February 2, 2026

RE: Status of Funding and Section 3 Activities for Fiscal Year 2026

At the present time Congress has not passed an appropriation for the National Mediation Board (NMB). With current year FY 2026 funds expiring at 11:59 pm on January 30, 2026, the parties and the arbitrators are notified that neither an appropriation nor a continuing resolution has been passed and the agency is in non-operational status.

Since the current appropriation expired on January 30, 2026, the parties are notified that arbitrators do not have any authority to hear in-person or virtual cases nor write cases past this date if the cases involve the expenditure of funds by the NMB. The Anti-Deficiency Act precludes arbitrators from hearing or writing cases for free.

All of the present requests submitted by Arbitrators which are pending in the Arbitrator Work Space (AWS) will not be approved until a continuing resolution or an appropriation for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2026 is passed. Any request for hearings will have to be rescheduled for a later date if neither an appropriation nor a continuing resolution is passed.

Please be advised this memorandum does not apply to cases on established Parties' Pay Boards.