

# 2024 Legislative Conference Report

Attend by: David L. Dietrich 6/17-6/19/2024

## Day one Speakers:

### Hasan Solomon, National Political & Legislative Director:

Opened the conference with a rousing speech and resounding message of using our power as a Union. His most impactful remark of “Our issues are on the table Brothers and Sisters; we have to grab our seat at that table, or we will end up on the menu.”

He went on to layout our goals for the three days and covered some issues we will be lobbying for in front of our Representatives and Senators.

### IAM International President Bryan Bryant:

Addressed the delegates giving a strong message of Solidarity across all sectors of our Union. He encouraged the delegates to go prepared and empowered to share our initiatives and supported legislation with our Legislators.

Here’s a list of the legislative proposals and initiatives that can be found on the IAM Website:

<https://www.goiam.org/departments/headquarters/politics-and-legislation/legislative-issues/>

- 1) **Legislation to Protect, Secure and Improve Social Security Benefits**
- 2) **Base access Privilege Improvement Act**
- 3) **Increase funding for National Mediation Board to help Air Transport and Rail Workforce**
  - \***Support Remedies to long-standing labor disputes before the NMB**
- 4) **Defense Spending: National Security and Job Creation**
- 5) **Passage of the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act**
- 6) **Support the right of the Delta Airlines workers to organize a Union**
- 7) **No More Tax Breaks for Company accrued costs for Union Busting**
- 8) **Public Service freedom to Negotiate Act**
- 9) **Tax Fairness for Workers Act**
- 10) **Prioritize US workers in Trade Policies**
- 11) **Rail Workers in Federal Appropriations & Policies**
  - \***Railroad employee equality and fairness Act**
  - \***Railroad Retirement Board FY2025 appropriations**
  - \***Amtrak FY 2025 Appropriations**
- 12) **Railway Safety Act**
- 13) **Patient Care and Healthcare professionals**
  - \***Workplace violence prevention for Healthcare & Social Workers Act**
  - \***Long term Care Workforce Support Act**
  - \***Standard Nurse Staffing for Hospital patient safety & quality care Act**
- 14) **Combat Federal Workforce myths and Popular lies**
- 15) **NFFE-IAM & Federl Workforce Legislation**

## **Day Two Speakers:**

### **Senator Jamie Raskin (Maryland):**

Constitutional Lawyer, most recently led the Impeachment trial of President Donald Trump and J6 investigation Committee

Believes our government is being manipulated and captured by a worldwide Monarchy, with the sole purpose of enriching itself. Creating and promoting a wealth gap we haven't seen the likes of in modern history.

Is a self-proclaimed "True Blue" Democrat. Fully supports the Biden agenda and its accomplishments.

- 1) 1.5 trillion-dollar infrastructure Bill
- 2) CHIPS and Science Act
- 3) Lowest Unemployment in 50 years
- 4) Inflation Act

\*Included government mandated prescription drug price controls for Medicare

### **Senator Ed Markey (Massachusetts):**

How About them Celtics!!

Spoke of a need for Strong Unions more than ever

Aviation industry has taken a giant step back in safety because of investor and corporate greed. The cost cutting measures are a direct assault on organized labor and public safety is at risk as a result.

Holding companies like Boeing accountable for prioritizing profits over safety. Boeing has repeatedly moved critical skilled labor and engineering away from union trained skilled workers.

Supports and calls on his colleagues in the Senate to support the Delta Airlines organizing effort. Called on the CEO of Delta Airlines to stand down and stay neutral during this effort. Stop the anti-campaign, including employee intimidation and misinformation efforts.

Calls to pass the PRO Act NOW!!!

Pass Railway Safety Act, need more railway staffing, safety and maintenance standards and infrastructure improvements. Need to invest in Union trained labor and bring Union consultants in to assist in creating new safety standards

### **Senator Bob Casey (Pennsylvania):**

Consumer Prices are outrageous, companies were given tax breaks and in turn raised prices, reduced workforces and netted record profits.

75% profit increases have caused a record-breaking transfer of wealth from the bottom earners to the top earners.

Corporate greed and price gouging needs to be reined in through meaningful and impactful legislation.

FY 2025 Tax codes are renegotiated:

Child tax credits are intended to help parents need to be bolstered

Tax credits for companies to wage anti-union campaigns need to be revoked

Union dues should be made tax deductible, Union members are paying for a professional service

**Amit Bose (Federal Railroad Administration):**

Spoke extensively about the most recent Rail disasters and labor accidents that led to deaths of workers in the United States. These accidents are rising due to poor maintenance and under scheduling enough time for trained Rail workers to perform the proper safety checks.

Tasked with creating and reaffirming policies and procedures that correct the unsafe staffing, create proper certification programs for safety training. Institute proper PPE measures for workers, install recording and surveillance devices on all trains for worker safety.

Create a fatigue risk manage task force that includes the workers doing the job.

**Owen Herrstadt (Import/Export Board of Director Member):**

Explained how the board drives domestic jobs and production growth

Federal Legislation and Executive orders set requirements to work with US Suppliers

Drive export policies that help drive US made products to global markets

Advocates for Federal funds to Launch initiatives to push for company development that can drive economic growth. Creates tax growth from products and US force growth

Has steered funds to US Companies that use Union trained and Skilled Labor

**Senator Laphonza Butler (California):**

First Senator to sign open letter to Delta CEO Ed Bastian, urging him to stay neutral on the Workers Organizing drive to win a joint election with the IAM and Teamsters

Former president of Emily's List, largest Women's' political advocacy group in the nation

Has led a panel of Union Leaders nationwide to drive Pro-Union Legislation at every level of government

### **Lori Wallach (Director of rethink trade):**

Rethink Trade fights for good jobs, a healthy environment, robust and fair markets where small businesses can thrive and safe and affordable medicine, food and goods. And we believe those who will live with the results must decide the policies affecting their lives. That's why we work to replace the current "trade" rules that were formed by and for the world's largest corporate powers with damaging results for most people and the planet.

She gave a presentation on the current trade deficits and policies driving them.

Visit: <https://rethinktrade.org/> for more information

### **Lobbying:**

#### **12:45PM Office of Senator Ron Johnson, met with Staffer Julia Mitkota(Legislative Counsel)**

We gave Ms. Mitkota our legislative proposals and initiative print outs. We discussed 6 of those talking points. Our discussion with Ms. Mitkota was respectful but dismissive of some of the points the Senator doesn't support. Such as the PRO Act legislation, she told us "this is a state's rights issue and given the way it was written the Senator doesn't feel it is the Federal government's place to step in. I argued that the Taft/Hartley Act gave states a federal right to create legislation such as Right to Work knowing it would be in conflict with federal fair representation laws. We as labor representatives look at Right to Work legislation as Right to compel us to represent for free. I shared that it's purely Union busting legislation. We agreed to disagree. She was surprised by the number of proposals we brought in, we may have overwhelmed her, but she only scheduled our visit for 15 minutes. We left the materials with her and looked forward to a follow up phone conversation or email.

#### **Office drop-ins:**

Senator Kyrsten Sinema I (Arizona): Left our Legislative materials with her staff regarding the PRO Act. She is Independent but votes with the Democrats most of the time, is holding out on supporting the Senate version of the Bill.

Senator Mark Kelly (Arizona): Left our Legislative materials with his staff regarding the PRO Act. He is one of two Democrat Senators holding out on supporting the Senate version of the Bill.

Senator Mark Warner: Left our Legislative materials with his staff regarding the PRO Act. He is one of two Democrat Senators holding out on supporting the Senate version of the Bill.

#### **3:00PM Office of Senator Tammy Baldwin, met with Tammy and two of her staffers**

We thanked the Senator for cosponsoring the Workplace Violence Preventions for Healthcare and Social Workers Act. We shared personal stories of family members and friends affected by such violence and lend or full support of her. We talked about a couple other issues we presented as well. She was anxious to hear about each of our personal backgrounds and communities we are

from. We concluded the visit with a picture and thanked her again for continuing to answer the call of the IAM and workers everywhere. Our Visit include Members of Lodges 78, 873 & 1947



### **Day Three Speakers:**

#### **David Arouca (TCU/IAM National Legislative Director):**

Gave a report on the ongoing legislation and policy changes to improve Rail safety, worker training and safe staff scheduling and staffing practices. Spoke about how accidents such as the one in East Paletine derailment can never happen again and due to poor company forced maintenance practices by Norfolk Southern. Leading a coalition of Rail workers to improve working conditions in the yards, on the rails and creating substantial PPE policy requires.

#### **Senator Sherrod Brown (Ohio):**

Talked about the connection of the Civil Right movement with Organized Labor

Spoke on importances of Juneteenth, spoke about the connection organized Labor had with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke about his march and support of the killed sanitation workers in Alabama.

Called for the passage of the PRO Act, NOW!!!

A need for many of the trade policies adjusted and for the import/export bank to leverage more companies to invest in American Workers and domestic job growth.

**Carly Siegel(General Counsel, IAM):**

Challenged all the delegates to educate themselves on the Federal and State issues that are and have been proposed that scale back workers and Human rights within the workplace. She shared a few examples of discrimination and manipulation of policies that have created dangerous and unfair situations in the workplace place that can't be ignored.

**Senator Bernie Sanders:**

Delusions of the state of our country, we are being manipulated to believe all the doom and gloom, government bureaucrat fallacies and untruths.

The economy is good and growing but economic inequality is at an all-time high in human history.

System is working for the OWNERS, driving cooperate greed

Record prices have resulted in record profits, companies are selling the same amount and some cases less goods for more.

Cooperate Money is driving government policies, 3 multi billionaires have more wealth and influence than 90% of Americans

**Senator Jackey Rosen(Nevada):**

In a contested race for Senate seat, gave a report on the state of Nevada and thanked the IAM for our support.

**Senator Maria Cantwell(Senator):**

Spoke about the Boeing investigation and spoke of her support of the Airlines industries in and out of Covid-19. Thank the IAM for our continued commitment to Aerospace and Airlines workers.