



*"We always had someone on our side, keeping an eye on our shops, keeping an eye on our pensions and keeping an eye on good union jobs. **Joe Biden is the blue-collar candidate.**"*

--Wilmington, Del., Local 2270 member Sterling Rapposelli, Amtrak Bear Heavy Maintenance Facility

JOE BIDEN SUPPORTS AMTRAK WORKERS

- Saved his father's repair shop from closing, Rapposelli said
- Sponsored a bill that enabled widows of railroad workers to receive their spouse's full Tier II Railroad Retirement pension benefits¹
- Ensured that stimulus funding after the 2008 economic collapse went to rebuilding the decaying Northeast Corridor infrastructure²
- Spent 35 years commuting on Amtrak³



Sterling Rapposelli, left, and Tommy Rapposelli of Local 2270 maintain Amtrak locomotives. *The Electrical Worker*, Sept. 2011

*"Why as a country are we so boneheaded to not understand the **essential value of a rail system that's modern** throughout the whole country?"*

--Joe Biden, 8/26/16⁷

JOE BIDEN IS CALLING FOR THE SECOND GREAT RAILROAD REVOLUTION⁴

- Using federal investments, building the **cleanest, safest, and fastest** railroad system in the world
- Working to further **electrify the railroad system**
- **Promoting collective bargaining** in the federal railroad sector⁵
- **Making investments in the Northeast Corridor** and shrinking Amtrak's travel time from D.C. to New York by half⁶
- Completing the California High Speed Rail project
- Expanding the Northeast Corridor to the South
- Constructing a coast-to-coast **high-speed, nationwide railroad system**

*The Wilmington train station was renamed the **Joseph R. Biden Jr. Railroad Station** in 2011.*

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¹ <https://www.congress.gov/bills/107th-congress/house-bill/10/cosponsors?searchResultViewType=expanded>

² <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/vice-president-biden-railroad-administrator-members-congress-announce-funding-amtrak>

³ <http://www.ibew.org/Journals/scans/IBEW%20Journal/2008-Fall%20IBEW%20Journal.pdf>

⁴ <https://joebiden.com/clean-energy/>

⁵ <https://www.demconvention.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020-07-21-DRAFT-Democratic-Party-Platform.pdf>

⁶ <https://joebiden.com/infrastructure/>

⁷ <https://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/2016/08/26/wilmington-biden-announces-245-billion-amtrak/89399730/>



Amtrak Station in Washington, D.C. Photo by ep_jgu/Flickr

*"Joe Biden recognizes **the necessity of a skilled, professional workforce** that will help revitalize the rail sector as a critical component of rebuilding America's infrastructure."*

--Lonnie R. Stephenson, IBEW International President

THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION'S 2021 BUDGET

- **Decrease Amtrak's overall funding** by more than 50 percent¹
- **Reduce Northeast Corridor funding** from \$700 million to \$325 million
- **Slash Amtrak's long-distance service** from \$1.3 billion to \$611 million
 - The White House expressed disappointment in a House funding bill, saying it *"continues the status quo of providing more than \$2 billion for all Amtrak operations, including its highly inefficient long-distance trains"*²
- Endanger the viability of the Railroad Retirement Board and worker pensions

RAIL LABOR IS CONCERNED

- Amtrak is **using the pandemic as an excuse** to cut jobs, eliminate routes and replace furloughed workers with outsourced contractors³
- **Privatization** and the permanent dismantling of passenger rail will result
- **Hobbling Amtrak's critical workforce**, leaving it unprepared when post-pandemic demand picks up

LAYOFFS, FURLOUGHS FOR THOUSANDS

In May, Amtrak CEO William Flynn announced:

- A 20% workforce cut⁴
- Thousands of jobs and \$350 million in labor costs will be eliminated
- **Deepest cuts would most impact rural communities** that depend on Amtrak's daily trains as a lifeline⁵

TTD Transp. Trades Dept. 
@TTDAFLCIO

Those low population areas? Trump's budget states that people who live in places like Kansas, Montana, Wyoming, and Arizona would be better served by other modes of transportation like -- wait for it -- intercity buses.

8:51 AM · Feb 11, 2020 · Twitter Web App

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¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/transportation/2020/02/11/trump-again-asking-congress-slash-amtrak-funding/>

² <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SAP-H.R.-7617-1.pdf>

³ <http://www.ibew.org/Portals/22/IBEW%20Letters/2020/Rail%20Labor%20Amtrak%20Supplemental%20Funding%20letter%20to%20House%20Appropriations%2006.11.20.pdf?ver=2020-06-12-111431-660>

⁴ <https://www.newsweek.com/biden-praises-amtrak-dnc-trump-wants-cut-its-budget-half-1525780>

⁵ <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/assets/Uploads/t4whitepaperruralcommunities.pdf>