



Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO

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June 5, 2019

Dear Representative:

On behalf of more than 150,000 members of the Transport Workers Union (TWU), I am writing to encourage you to cosponsor the *Transit Infrastructure Vehicle Security Act* (H.R. 2739). This important piece of legislation is an essential part of ensuring American workers and companies have a level playing field to compete against state-owned and subsidized enterprises.

Until August 2018, rail cars for transit agencies across the country were manufactured in Philadelphia, PA. Over 300 TWU members lost their jobs and livelihoods when the plant that did that work was closed. These jobs disappeared after their company was underbid by CRRC, the Chinese state-owned, highly subsidized rail car manufacturer. In Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, and, finally, Philadelphia itself, CRRC offered a price well below any of their competitors not because of any efficiencies, but rather because their shareholder (the government of China) had given them a directive to conquer the U.S. market.

TWU members are not the only ones whose jobs are being threatened or destroyed by unfair competition from state-owned enterprises. China's "Made in China 2025" initiative directs all of their state-supported corporations to increase their market share across the globe, regardless of profitability. In the U.S., this is leading to massive turnover in transit manufacturing, with thousands of jobs potentially at risk.

H.R. 2739 directly addresses this issue and ensures that workers building and assembling transit cars are competing in the free market rather than against foreign governments. Corporations from non-free market economies would become ineligible from receiving federal funds. Additionally, the bill would increase cybersecurity protections for our transit vehicles – an essential component of our 21st century infrastructure.

The TWU believes H.R. 2739 is essential for ensuring that American workers can compete on a level playing. We urge you to cosponsor this legislation by contacting Andrew.Noh@mail.house.gov in Representative Harley Rouda's office. Please contact Zack Tatz (ZTatz@twu.org) at 202-719-3881 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John Samuelson
International President