

# American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



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June 10, 2007

Mr. Michael Sullivan  
General President  
Sheet Metal Workers International  
1750 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Mr. Paul Thompson  
International President  
United Transportation Union  
14600 Detroit Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44107-4250

Dear Brothers Sullivan and Thompson:

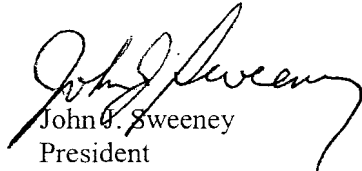
I am writing to congratulate you on the historic merger of the Sheet Metal Workers and the United Transportation Union you are announcing. Combining your proud unions will serve to strengthen the voices of your members and at the same time bolster our shared commitment to growing our great movement.

It is significant that you are achieving this historic merger at a time when the labor movement is fighting to advance an economic agenda that will benefit the working families of this nation who for too long have been the victims of neglect and hostile Federal policies. The progress we are already seeing this year is the result of dedication and hard work by both your organizations and all our affiliates in the 2006 elections. Now, as a combined force under a unified umbrella, you can seize the new opportunities your merger will offer in the pursuit of good jobs and strong worker rights for your members.

The AFL-CIO strongly supports strategically advantageous union mergers. Clearly, the Sheet Metal Workers and UTU complement one another as forces in your respective industries and with the overlap you already have in the freight and passenger rail industry. Your merged unions, in coordination with the AFL-CIO and our Transportation Trades Department, will only serve to boost our collective goal to restore the voices of working men and women in workplaces across America and in Washington, DC.

The AFL-CIO fully endorses your merger and wishes you every success in the pursuit of good jobs, retirement security, strong bargaining power, the rebuilding of America's infrastructure, and a safe and well financed transportation system.

Sincerely,

  
John J. Sweeney  
President