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Congress of the United States
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COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
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(RANKING MEMBER)

Dawn Distler
Chief Executive Officer
METRO Regional Transit Authority
416 Kenmore Blvd
Akron, Ohio 44301

December 10, 2025

Ms. Distler:

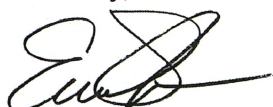
I write to express my concern over the lack of progress in ongoing contract negotiations between METRO Regional Transit Authority (RTA) and the Transport Workers Union. While I appreciate that these negotiations take time, I am concerned that failure to come to an agreement that best serves this community in a timely manner could threaten access to public transportation for the residents of Akron and Summit County.

METRO RTA plays a vital role in providing reliable and essential transportation for the many communities in Summit County. The workers of TWU Local 1 are compassionate and skilled professionals who work long hours to ensure our neighbors can go to work to support their families, visit the doctor's office to keep themselves healthy, and pick up their children from school. Without them, METRO would not be able to provide the essential services that it is known for and that so many rely on.

I strongly encourage METRO RTA and the Transport Workers Union to reach a contracting agreement that honors the dignity of the work of the transit operators and avoids a strike to maintain the critical public services you provide. Like you, these workers care deeply about the wellbeing of our community and are committed to bringing your passengers to their destination safely and swiftly. I urge both sides to find a way toward reaching a fair and equitable agreement in a timely manner.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter, as well as the leadership and partnership of METRO RTA, and look forward to our continued work to serve the transportation needs of our community.

Sincerely,



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress
13th Congressional District of Ohio