

## CASTLE COMMENDS ALL PARTIES FOR AVERTING POTENTIAL LARGE SCALE STRIKE -- JANUARY 18, 2008

Washington, DC -- Since 1999, Amtrak unions have been advocating for a new contract and according to press reports, if an agreeable compromise was not met by January 30, 2008 at midnight, these unions planned to execute a potentially crippling strike. Over the last several weeks Congressman Castle has hosted separate meetings with Amtrak employees and members of Amtrak's management. Today the parties announced a tentative agreement.

"Amtrak is absolutely vital for travelers in the northeast and any shutdown would have crippled traffic in our region. After months of tense negotiations, I am very pleased that the company and its unions appear to have reached agreement. I have hosted several talks in my office and I commend those involved for working to reach a mutual understanding. Amtrak's employees are among the best in the country and I am dedicated to improving and expanding passenger rail's service and potential." said Castle.

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