



**POTOMAC CHAPTER**  
A MARYLAND NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION  
**NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

June 22, 2013

Mr. Gregory Molloy  
President NRHS  
100 North 20<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 400  
Philadelphia PA 19103-1462

Dear Mr. Molloy and National Board Members:

While our chapter is aware of the financial challenges facing the National organization, the Potomac Chapter's Board is greatly concerned with the proposed \$11 increase in membership dues as a means of addressing possible budgetary shortfalls. This concern comes from both our membership and board of directors. We feel that such a dramatic increase in annual dues especially after increases in recent years, will negatively impact both the National and our Chapter with a large decrease in membership. Such a loss in membership may significantly reduce whatever gains in operating revenue the National hopes to achieve. For us, the effect will be a pure loss—dues revenue and more importantly of involved people who keep us viable. We would urge you to explore alternative options in reducing operating costs, such as conversion to digital publications, and a thorough review and possible rebidding of the Fernley and Fernley contract.

We value our relationship with the National organization and most members would not hesitate to do what is needed to insure its continued viability. We, however, object to the lack of chapter input on these issues, the seeming unwillingness of the National Board of Directors to consider modification of expenditures as an alternative to the proposed dues increase, and the reluctance of the National to provide current financial information. (The 2012 annual report is still regarded as confidential. The 2011 annual report is not directly found through the main NRHS.com website. We found the IRS website to be the best source of financial information about the NRHS—a sad commentary.)

In closing, we are appreciative of the time taken by National Treasurer Bob Bitzer and National Secretary Joe Maloney, who are Potomac Chapter members and our Region 3 members on the National Board, to meet with us and explain the National's view. It is our hope that the National Board will seriously review its planned course of action at its upcoming meeting.

This letter reflects the official position of the Potomac Chapter Board of Directors. Two members of the board, Rick Davidson and Jerry Hott, declined to endorse this letter.

Yours truly,

William R. Holdsworth  
Secretary  
Potomac Chapter, NRHS