



**AIR TRANSPORT**



**DISTRICT LODGE 142**

400 N.E. 32<sup>nd</sup> STREET • KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64116  
816-452-6646 • FAX: 816-455-4793  
iamdl142@swbell.net

April 8, 2009  
File: GGM-18

**Open Letter to IAM Represented Gate Gourmet Kitchen Employees in Boston and Tampa**

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The IAM has represented the Gate Gourmet Boston and Tampa kitchen employees for many years. In 2000, IBT and HERE formed a council to represent all Gate Gourmet kitchens, nationwide, under the jurisdiction of the Railway Labor Act (“RLA”). At the time the IAM did not agree that all Gate Gourmet employees belonged in a nationwide unit under the RLA. After the IBT/HERE Employees Representative Council (“Council”) was certified by the National Mediation Board (“NMB”), the Council designated the IAM as representative of Tampa and Boston employees so that we could continue to represent you as we always had.

Since then, the Council, without the agreement of the IAM, negotiated a National Master Agreement that virtually eliminated most meaningful provisions of our local agreements. As a result, the IAM has been forced to try to administer a Collective Bargaining Agreement that we did not negotiate. This arrangement is no longer workable and prevents the IAM from representing the employees the way we would like, and in the manner you deserve.

Based on the above, on March 31, 2009 the IAM wrote the IBT/Here Employee Representatives’ Council to advise that the IAM will no longer participate with the Council. This means we will no longer serve as your designated representative at Gate Gourmet. You still have Union representation; however, under the law, the IBT/HERE Representative Council remains your certified bargaining representative. We have committed to work with them to facilitate a smooth transition to the Council’s representation of you. We asked the Council to contact us to initiate the transition process and we await their contact.

It has been an honor to represent you.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Tom Higginbotham  
PRESIDENT-DIRECTING  
GENERAL CHAIRPERSON

TH/slb

cc: R. Roach  
S. Pantoja  
T. Brickner  
E. Diaz-Green  
C. Coppola

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