



## NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

**TO: Railroad Referees/Neutrals**

**FROM: Linda A. Puchala  
Chairman of the Board**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda A. Puchala", is written over the printed name and title.

**CC: Section 3 Community**

**DATE: March 25, 2020**

**RE: Arbitrator Travel Restrictions**

On March 20, 2020, National Mediation Board (NMB) Arbitrator Travel was temporarily restricted due to the National Emergency related to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic. The Agency has restricted NMB Travel to "essential travel; to protect life and/or limb."

We encourage you to teleconference or utilize video conferencing to conduct your arbitration hearings.

Through your Gmail account, you also have the ability to connect via "Google Hangouts." There are a number of tutorials and guides available online, one can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mBN5QCEJds>.

If you require further assistance or have questions on how to utilize Google Hangouts, please contact Dexter Batts, [batts@nmb.gov](mailto:batts@nmb.gov), NMB Office of Information Services, Monday-Friday, between 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Eastern.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and continued support of the NMB Arbitration Program and Please Be Safe.