

**QUENTIN ANTHONY
ANDERSON
FOR STATE SENATE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**STATEMENT FROM QUENTIN ANTHONY
ANDERSON ON THE CATS BUS OPERATORS
STRIKE**

Ninety-one percent of these essential workers have made it clear: they deserve better wages, better working conditions, and better respect. For too long, the frontline workers who keep our city moving have been ignored. They're asking for wages in line with other transit systems in the state, and they're demanding a safer work environment. These are not unreasonable requests—they are basic rights. I stand in full solidarity with the CATS bus operators and the Amalgamated Transit Union in their fight for dignity and fair pay.

CATS bus operators are currently working without a contract, making up to \$5 per hour less than their counterparts in other Louisiana transit systems. At the same time, many of these workers have raised serious concerns about financial mismanagement and deteriorating safety conditions. These workers have gone above and beyond to keep our city running, and now they are being forced to fight just to receive the respect and fair treatment they deserve.

This isn't just about a contract — it's about how we treat public transit in this city. A system that underpays and endangers its workers cannot serve the public effectively. We need to stop treating public transit like an afterthought and start investing in a world-class system that takes care of both its riders and its workforce.

Public transit is the backbone of a thriving city. A strong system ensures that residents can get to work, school, and essential services without barriers. But none of that is possible without a workforce that is supported, protected, and fairly compensated. That is why I am committed to a public transit plan that includes:

- Higher wages for operators that match regional and national standards, ensuring we recruit and retain the best workforce.
- Stronger safety protections for transit employees and passengers, so workers can do their jobs without fear.
- Expanded training and career development to invest in the next generation of transit professionals.
- A modernized fleet with reliable, safe, and energy-efficient buses that improve service for both workers and riders.
- Increased route coverage and frequency to make public transit a truly viable transportation option for more Baton Rouge residents.

The people who drive our buses and keep our city moving deserve respect, not just words of appreciation, but real, tangible investment. If we want a Baton Rouge that works for everyone, we need a transit system that works for everyone — riders and workers alike. That starts with supporting these workers and ensuring they get a fair contract. And it continues with bold leadership that will finally prioritize modern, safe, and reliable public transportation.

I urge CATS leadership to return to the negotiating table in good faith and meet the demands of these workers. As your next state senator, I will not only stand with workers in moments like this — I will fight to build a transit system that respects them every single day.

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