



Railroad Workers United

Solidarity • Unity • Democracy

The Rank & File in Action!

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RWU Resolution in Opposition to Precision Scheduled Railroading

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Whereas, “Precision Scheduled Railroading” (PSR) is being propelled forward strictly by stockholders, hedge funds and Wall Street insiders in order to get rich quick; and

Whereas, from its beginnings on the CN-IC it has spread to CP, then CSX, and now UP and NS, quickly becoming the standard operating procedure for the Class One railroads of North America; and

Whereas, it has been responsible for traffic congestion, inefficiencies, lost freight traffic and dissatisfied customers, leading to a near “melt-down” at CSX in 2017 and investigations by the federal Surface Transportation Board; and

Whereas, PSR has been a disaster for passenger trains that share the rails on “host railroads” that have switched over to this operating plan format, suffering regular and more extreme delays than what had previously been experienced; and

Whereas, working conditions have increasingly worsened in terms of longer hours, less time off work, abolition of long-standing work and safety rules, and general decline in safety; and

Whereas, the emphasis on longer, heavier trains, fewer employees, and less supporting infrastructure have all combined to create a more hazardous and unsafe railroad; and

Whereas, the implementation of PSR and its concomitant emphasis of doing “more with less” can be directly linked to several serious injuries and fatalities at CN, CP and CSX; and

Whereas, the idea that “less is better” runs contradictory to the generally held wisdom that expansion, not contraction, of the rail industry, with more trains, not fewer, more track, not less, and more freight moved is vital for the future of our country and the industry itself; and

Whereas, Matt Rose, the CEO at BNSF – the only Class One railroad not publicly traded on Wall Street – dismisses PSR as a gimmick, one that will only serve the short-term interests of stockholders while jeopardizing the long-term health and vitality of the nation’s rail system;

Therefore, Be it Resolved that Railroad Workers United (RWU), calls out PSR for what it is – a sham and farce, an operating plan hatched by hedge fund investors - solely designed to bring a quick return on investment to stock holders at the expense of shippers, passengers, workers, communities, and the nation as a whole; and

Be it further Resolved that RWU urge others to speak out as well – including railroad CEOs, rail experts, passenger advocacy groups, rail communities, elected officials, the FRA and, most especially, the rail unions – and condemn this irresponsible, short-sighted management style; and

Be it finally Resolved that RWU urge rank & file railroad workers to speak out against PSR at union meetings, public gathering, rallies and demonstrations and other forums in order to provide a counter perspective to this scourge.

Adopted by the RWU Steering Committee 3/5/19