



Railroad Workers United

Solidarity • Unity • Democracy

The Rank & File in Action!

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RWU Resolution on National Rail Strike

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Whereas, the major freight rail carriers continue to refuse to bargain in good faith, leaving national negotiations with the unions at a standstill; and

Whereas, these same carriers – represented by the National Carriers Conference Committee (NCCC) - have been making record profits for years, including all through the pandemic; and

Whereas, Precision Scheduled Railroading, firings and furloughs; increased discipline and harassment; massive job cuts, short-staffing, and chronic fatigue; together with unpaid claims and wholesale abrogation of the union contract has left railroad workers frustrated, angry, and ready to fight-back; and

Whereas, Countless workers in an array of industries nationwide are fighting back, organizing, striking, and winning; and

Whereas, current conditions appear to be ripe for railroad workers to mount a successful national strike, including but not limited to:

- A general labor shortage where the rail carriers are unable to recruit and retain employees in the various crafts, including train and engine service.
- Supply chains in crisis, as goods in transit are hampered at every turn.
- Public opinion that has sided with striking workers throughout 2021.
- The record profits generated by the carriers, together with their alienation of shippers, passengers and communities, which suggest that railroad strikers would enjoy vast public support.
- Rail unions of late that have been largely standing together.
- The fact that the carriers have attacked ALL rail workers, solidifying workers from all crafts, unions, and carriers.
- The existence of a sitting President who claims to be “the most pro-labor President you have ever had.”

Whereas, such favorable conditions for rail workers outlined above have not existed for decades - if ever - and will not continue indefinitely;

Therefore, Be it Resolved that RWU urges all railroad workers to consider the strike option, and to prepare for such a strike; and

Be it further Resolved that RWU urge the rail unions to educate their respective memberships on:

- the Railway Labor Act (RLA) under which our actions are governed;
- the history of rail strikes;
- the benefits and risks of taking such action with webinars, printed materials, presentations at local union meetings, and other means of communication; and

Be it further Resolved that RWU urge the rail unions to poll their respective members for a strike vote so as to ascertain the willingness of the respective memberships to take such action; and

Be it Further Resolved that RWU urge the rail unions to undertake informational picketing, “practice” strikes, and other high-profile activities to mobilize the membership, put the carriers on notice that we mean business; to educate the public as to our cause; and to mobilize our allies; and

Be it Finally Resolved, that the rail craft unions put aside their petty differences and take this opportunity to consummate a single bargaining coalition of all rail labor in order to achieve the greatest possible solidarity, unity, and power.

Adopted by the RWU Steering Committee 1/5/2022