



Railroad Workers United

Unity—Solidarity—Democracy: The Rank and File in Action!

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RWU Resolution on Regulation of Inward Facing Cameras

Whereas, recent train wrecks have fueled the cry of politicians, pundits and railroad executives for inward facing cameras on railroad locomotives; and

Whereas, this push for inward facing cameras is ostensibly to better understand after-the-fact what actions the crew may or may not have taken that might have contributed to any given train wreck; and

Whereas, the rail industry's first prerogative is to make a profit and as such, it has a long history of resisting safety improvements that in its view, could be overly expensive and cut into those profits; and

Whereas, as a result of the nature of the rail corporation as described above, its managers and supervisors cannot be trusted with the contents of these cameras and they should not be part of the post-accident/incident investigation;

Whereas, without their strict regulation, the rail carriers could easily use footage from such cameras to spy on, intimidate, harass, discipline and terminate railroad employees for reasons that have nothing to do with any train wreck; and

Whereas, such actions by railroad managers would represent abuse of the cameras and represent a digression away from their intended use; and

Whereas, the aviation industry has agreed to a cockpit voice recorder model that makes use of data for purposes of federal accident/incident investigation, while disallowing the industry from using the data to routinely discipline or otherwise harass or intimidate employees; and

Whereas, these cameras if not strictly regulated in such fashion, could likely distract train and engine crews from speaking candidly and confidentially with one another and safely performing their duties;

Therefore, Be it Resolved, that RWU supports rules that restrict the rail carriers from abusing this technology and otherwise using it to harass, intimidate and discipline train and engine crews; and

Be it further Resolved that RWU supports the elimination of audio/visual records within a reasonable length of time following the conclusion of each train crew's tour of duty during the course of which no accident, incident, or unusual event has taken place; and

Be it Finally Resolved that RWU insist that the cameras' contents be viewed only by members of the Regulatory team engaged in a post-accident investigation and only then when an accident that requires such investigation has occurred.

Adopted by the RWU Steering Committee 7/8/15