



Railroad Workers United

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

railroadworkersunited.org • info@railroadworkersunited.org
(206) 984-3051 • PO Box 1053, Salem, IL 62881

RWU Resolution to Oppose Single Employee Operating Crews

Whereas, the major rail carriers have made it clear in their words and actions that they wish to conduct operations to the extent possible, “conductor only” in RCL yard operations, and “engineer only” on road trains; *and*

Whereas, the rail carriers have long stated their intentions to operate road trains with a single employee, when more than decade ago they made their intentions known to both unions of the operating crafts through a “Section 6” notice addressed to the unions dated 11/1/04; *and*

Whereas, in the words of a Joint Petition filed with Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in June 2009 by both unions of the operating crafts, “*No conditions exist where one-person operations are safe;*” *and*

Whereas, both unions of the operating crafts support a bill before Congress known as “The Safe Freight Act” (HR #3040), that would outlaw single employee train operations in the U.S.; *and*

Whereas, the FRA itself proclaimed on 4/9/14 that “*safety is enhanced with the use of a multiple person crew – safety dictates that you never allow a single point of failure.*”

Whereas, the implementation of single employee operations will invariably result in a serious degrading of worker safety, security, and quality of work life;

Whereas, these unsafe working conditions referenced above would pose a danger to shippers, pedestrians, motorists, trackside communities, the environment and the general public;

Therefore, Be it Resolved, that RWU opposes any current use, and any further expansion of, single employee operations anywhere in North America, in the yard or on the road; *and*

Be in Further Resolved that RWU is committed to an ongoing continent-wide Campaign for a two employee minimum on every train crew; *and*

Be it Further Resolved that RWU once again calls upon the BLET and SMART-TD to redouble their efforts and launch an all-out rank-&-file campaign to put and end to the practice of single employee operations; *and*

Be it Further Resolved that RWU calls upon all rail union members – particularly those of the operating crafts – to become involved in their respective labor organizations and resist any and all efforts of the carriers to implement single employee crews; *and*

Be it Finally Resolved that RWU calls on community organizations, civic groups, environmental organizations and labor unions to join with us in this crucial fight against single employee operation of trains.

Adopted by the RWU Steering Committee 3/2/15