



Railroad Workers United

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

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RWU Resolution to Oppose Single Employee Operating Crews

Whereas, the 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, and as long ago as 2004 made their intentions known to both the BLET and the UTU, stating that, “All train and engine service positions should be consolidated,” and that “the work formerly performed separately by the train and engine service positions be performed by ‘qualified transportation employees’” and that “crew size shall be based on operational needs as determined by the railroad;” *and*

Whereas, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has now failed all of rail labor by:

1. Denying the joint UTU-BLET petition for an emergency order prohibiting the use of one-person crews in conventional and remote control yard switching operations, and
2. Refusing to fulfill their mandate to not only regulate safe RCO operations, but also to compile the necessary data to support the need for regulation; *and*

Whereas, in the wake of the FRA ruling, the rail carriers have already begun expanding their use of single employee crews on RCO jobs; *and*

Whereas, in the words of the BLET – UTU joint Petition filed in June 2009, that “No conditions exist where one-person operations are safe,” *and*

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

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

Be in Further Resolved that RWU will undertake a continent-wide Campaign for A Two Employee Minimum on Every Crew; *and*

Be in Further Resolved that RWU commends the respective leadership of the unions of the operating crafts – the United Transportation Union (UTU) and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLET) for their joint action and petition to obtain an emergency order prohibiting the use of one-person crews; *and*

Be it Further Resolved that RWU now calls upon the BLET and the UTU 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 Finally Resolved that RWU calls upon all rail union members – particularly those of the operating crafts – to become involved in their organizations and resist any and all efforts of the carriers to implement single employee crews.

Adopted by the Railroad Workers United Steering Committee January 5th, 2010