



# **Railroad Workers United**

***Solidarity • Unity • Democracy***

***The Rank & File in Action!***

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## **Resolution on RWU Autonomy & Independence**

**Whereas** the railroad craft unions, together with labor federations (Change to Win, AFL-CIO) have historically endorsed political candidates of the dominant established political parties (particularly the Democrats); and

**Whereas** labor federation and union campaigns to elect 'friendly' candidates over the course of rail labor's 150 year history have served to divert energy and resources away from workers' struggles to address issues of safety and better working conditions in the rail industry; and

**Whereas** while RWU recognizes the limitations and restrictions of craft unionism, and as such, refrains from aligning itself with *any* union, RWU members are encouraged to be active within their respective unions to build power within our workplaces and solidarity among *all* unions; and

**Whereas** individual members of RWU are encouraged to think critically, independently, and inclusively as we work together to build the strength of rail labor; and

**Whereas** partisanship and sectarianism have historically proven harmful to productive debate, and are incompatible with RWU's commitment to unity, solidarity, and democracy; and

**Whereas** RWU has been committed to political independence from the time of our founding convention, codifying this principle in our Bylaws at that time;

**Therefore, Be it Resolved** that RWU will not - formally or informally - affiliate with *any* political organization or party; and

**Be it Further Resolved** that RWU will not endorse *any* candidates for political office; and

**Be it Further Resolved** that RWU likewise pledges to remain independent of *any and all* unions in order that we can continue to strengthen solidarity amongst *all* unions; and

**Be it Finally Resolved** that while RWU may cooperate and form coalition with other labor organizations, worker movements and political parties to achieve mutually beneficial goals, RWU will actively defend and protect its autonomy from such organizations.

**Adopted by the RWU 5th Biennial Convention - Chicago, Illinois  
April 1, 2016**