

RWU Resolution on North American Rail Labor Solidarity

Whereas, the national economies of Canada, Mexico and the United States have become inextricably linked in recent years; and

Whereas, NAFTA – the North American Free Trade Agreement – together with other “free trade” agreements have led to a boom in trans-border freight traffic between our three nations; and

Whereas, Canadian based rail corporations have in recent years purchased – and continue to purchase – large sectors of the U.S. rail industry; and

Whereas, likewise, in recent years, U.S. based rail corporations have bought controlling interest in – and continue to invest in – large sectors of the Mexican rail industry; and

Whereas the Rail Carriers are now in a key position to divide rail labor once again – this time by nation of residence; and

Whereas, as a result of this internationalization of the North American rail industry, rail labor must likewise become increasingly international in its strategy and tactics to combat the rail carriers and better represent its members;

Therefore, Be it Resolved, that Railroad Workers United (RWU) at its Founding Convention in Dearborn, Michigan, April 11, 2008 urge all union representatives of rail labor in all three countries to work together; and

Be in Further Resolved that RWU will forward this resolution to the leadership of rail labor of all three nations; and

Be it Further Resolved that RWU will conduct an on-going campaign to educate the rank-and-file about the nature of North American Rail Labor; and

Be it Finally Resolved that RWU will work at the grassroots level to build solidarity and understanding through worker-to-worker contact of all three nations.

The above Resolution was adopted by those members assembled at the RWU Convention, April 11, 2008.