



# Railroad Workers United

**Unity • Solidarity • Democracy**  
**"The Rank and File in Action!"**

**P. O. Box 1053 Salem, IL 62888 206-984-3051**  
**www.railroadworkersunited.org info@railroadworkersunited.org**

## **Railroad Workers United Resolution On Alternative Technologies to Cameras in Locomotive Cabs**

### **Co-Chairs**

**Jon Flanders, IAM 1145**  
CSX, Selkirk, NY

**Ed Michael, UTU #979 BLET #724**  
UP, Salem, IL

**Robert Hill, BLET #758**  
BNSF, Vancouver, WA

### **General Secretary**

**Ron Kaminkow, BLET #51**  
AMTK, Reno, NV

### **Recording Secretary**

**Jen Wallis, BLET 518**  
BNSF, Seattle, WA

### **Treasurer**

**Chet Whyers, UTU #979**  
UP, Salem, IL

### **International Steering Committee**

**Penny Artis, IBEW #813**  
NS, Roanoke, VA

**Steve Desavouret, TCU #6608**  
CN, Chicago, IL

**Jon Flanders, IAM #1145**  
CSX, Selkirk, NY

**Ron Friend, BMWED #1509**  
CSX, Marietta, OH

**Robert Hill, BLET #758**  
BNSF Vancouver, WA

**Ron Kaminkow, BLET #51**  
Amtrak, Reno, NV

**Mike Matson, UTU #911**  
CP, St. Paul, MN

**Ed Michael, UTU #979 BLET #724**  
UP, Salem, IL

**Jen Wallis, BLET #518**  
BNSF, Seattle, WA

**Matt Weaver, BMWED #2624**  
CSX, Toledo, OH

**John Wright, BLET #78**  
CSX, Louisville, KY

**Whereas**, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) in January 2010 made a recommendation that inward facing cameras be used to constantly monitor train crew activities; and

**Whereas**, this recommendation by the NTSB is based on the NTSB's ongoing investigation into the causes of the September 12, 2008, accident in Chatsworth, California involving a Metrolink commuter train and a Union Pacific freight train; and

**Whereas**, this accident involved 25 fatalities and over 100 injuries; and

**Whereas**, the NTSB's ongoing investigation has unearthed preliminary information that the engineer of the Metrolink commuter train was both sending and receiving multiple text messages while operating the train; and

**Whereas**, the NTSB has recommended that inward facing cameras with audio pick-up be installed in the operating cab of all locomotives; and

**Whereas**, the NTSB has further recommended that railroad carriers be required to "regularly review and use in-cab audio and image recordings (with appropriate limitations on public release), in conjunction with other performance data, to verify that train crew actions are in accordance with rules and procedures that are essential to safety;"

**Therefore Be It Resolved**, that Railroad Workers United (RWU) acknowledges that the use of wireless devices -- including cell phones -- is, in fact, a distraction from the safe operation of locomotives and trains; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, that RWU supports an alternative to the highly intrusive video and audio monitoring of train crews proposed by the NTSB in the operating cabs of all locomotives; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, that RWU supports the installation of alternative non-intrusive technologies, including but not limited to:

- Cell phone jamming equipment that automatically functions whenever the reverser of the locomotive is not centered; and/or
- Alarm systems that sound if/when an active cell phone is brought into the cab of a locomotive; and/or
- Sensors that detect cell phone signals and instigate a penalty application of the train brakes when one is detected in the locomotive cab; and/or
- Other technologies of this type that actually prevent the locomotive from moving when an active cell phone is present in the cab.

**Be It Finally Resolved**, that RWU offers this as an alternative counter to cell phone use, to be considered by the appropriate authorities including, but not limited to, the railroad carriers, the United Transportation Union (UTU), the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

***This Resolution adopted by the members assembled at the RWU Second Biennial Convention Friday, April 23rd, 2010 in Dearborn, Michigan***