



Railroad Workers United

Unity – Solidarity – Democracy: The Rank & File in Action!

Railroadworkersunited.org info@railroadworkersunited.org (206) 984-3051

P.O. Box 1053, Salem, IL 62881

Co-Chairs

Hugh Sawyer, BLET #316
NS, Atlanta, GA

Mark Burrows, UTU #1433
CP, Chicago, IL

Shaun Kelley, BLET #642
BNSF, Creston, IA

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AMTK, Reno, NV

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BNSF, Lincoln, NE

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CP, Chicago, IL

Jon Flanders, IAM #1145
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Robert Hill, BLET #758
BNSF, Vancouver, WA

Robert Hull, UTU #199
BNSF, Creston, IA

Ron Kaminkow, BLET #51
Amtrak, Reno, NV

Shaun Kelley, BLET #642
BNSF, Creston, IA

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

Hugh Sawyer, BLET #316
NS, Atlanta, GA

James Wallace, UTU #305
BNSF, Lincoln, NE

Chet Whyers, UTU#979
UP, Salem, IL

John Wright, BLET #78
CSX, Louisville, KY

RWU Opposes Extension of Locomotive Inspection Periods

Whereas, on April 9, 2012 the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announced that they were ending the requirement that railroads must conduct a periodic locomotive inspection every 92 days; and

Whereas, the report in the Federal Register says that on “self diagnostic microprocessor-based locomotives, FRA is modifying the existing periodic inspection requirements to provide for a 184-day inspection interval for all locomotives equipped with microprocessor-based control systems with self-diagnostic capabilities;” and

Whereas, micro-processors on locomotives do not cover all of the mechanical elements that go into such an inspection insuring that a locomotive is safe to use; and

Whereas, for example, without bringing a locomotive into a shop facility for inspection it is difficult if not impossible to measure coupler height, measure knuckle wear, see cracks and breaks in couplers and drawbars, measure thin and high flanges and check lubrication levels of traction motors; and

Whereas, such items are potential failures that could cause a derailment, with all the potential catastrophic consequences for trackside communities; and

Whereas, the typical daily inspection, which on paper appears comprehensive, is no substitute for a shop based inspection of a locomotive; and

Whereas, over reliance on the proliferation of computer-based sensors in place of the eyes and knowledge of trained locomotive maintenance personnel is a formula for disaster;

Therefore, Be it Resolved that Railroad Workers United stands in solidarity with the machinists and other rail workers of the shop crafts in their opposition to this dangerous practice of extending the 92-day inspection; and

Be it Further Resolved that RWU calls upon the unions of the operating crafts – the BLET and the UTU – to get involved in this struggle and stand together with the shop crafts in defense of rail jobs and rail safety; and

Be it Finally Resolved that RWU call upon the United States Congress to step in and mandate the return of 92-day inspections immediately.

Adopted by the RWU Steering Committee at its August 7, 2012 Meeting