



# Railroad Workers United

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

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## RWU Resolution in Support of Organizing Crew Van Drivers

**Whereas**, in the recent past the majority of crew van drivers were railroad employees and union members who earned good wages and benefits; and

**Whereas**, these workers were well-trained, professional drivers who were able to work in a dignified environment; and

**Whereas**, this vital function has in more recent times been contracted out to a myriad of corporations which operate almost exclusively non-union; and

**Whereas**, the employees of these contractor outfits are universally paid low wages, earn few benefits, suffer a high turnover rate, lack proper training, and are subject to long working hours for days on end; and

**Whereas**, these disgraceful working conditions have led to rampant driver fatigue, poor job performance and an overall unsafe work environment for both themselves and for the railroad crews being transported; and

**Whereas**, in 2011 alone four railroaders were killed in incidents involving crew transport vehicles, with numerous others injured; and

**Whereas**, recent Congressional attempts to strip overtime pay from the workers in this industry has shown a complete and total lack of concern for these workers, allowing for further exploitation of crew van drivers and an accompanying decline in working conditions and safety for both drivers and railroad workers; and

**Whereas**, the close and constant proximity of T&E crews to these drivers makes rail unions -- specifically the unions of the operating crafts -- the logical labor organizations to organize these workers and bring them back into the house of rail labor and to begin to restore the good benefits, wages and working conditions previously enjoyed; and

**Whereas**, in undertaking this vital organizing effort we gain an important natural ally to support us in our struggles with the rail carriers and help to promote a safer working environment for our members;

**Whereas**, the recent expansion of company unions -- working in cahoots with the employers -- in order to blunt real labor organization within this industry is an additional sign that the workers are ready for organization;

**Therefore, Be it Resolved** that Railroad Workers United supports the efforts of crew van drivers to organize into labor unions; and

**Be it Finally Resolved** that RWU urge the existing rail unions -- specifically the UTU and the BLET -- to get involved in the drive to organize these brothers and sisters and begin to lift them out of the miserable conditions imposed on them, thereby defending our own unionized standard of living in the process.

***This Resolution adopted by the members assembled at the RWU Third Biennial Convention Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Chicago, Illinois***