



# **Railroad Workers United**

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

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## **Press Release**

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Railroad Employees Group to Fight Single Employee Train Crews**

Railroad Workers United – a coalition of railroad workers drawn from all crafts across North America – announces our stepped up campaign to stop single employee operation of trains. RWU kicked off the campaign on Labor Day, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012.

The North American rail carriers have been implementing single employee operations in yard operations in recent years, using a lone employee in so-called Remote Control Operations (RCO), resulting in numerous employee injuries and fatalities. Simultaneously, the carriers have been granted contract language in recent years that will allow for single employee operation of over-the-road trains.

RWU has taken an unequivocal stand against single employee operations since our founding convention in 2008. In 2010, the RWU Steering Committee reiterated our position in a formal resolution in opposition to single employee train crews (see attached document). Now we plan to step up our educational activities, using buttons and bumper stickers and circulating flyers and leaflets (see attached document). We also plan a special edition of our newsletter The Highball this autumn which will be devoted to the subject of lone employee train crews.

“We call on all rail workers in North America – especially those of the operating crafts – to get involved in the struggle,” states RWU Co-Chair Mark Burrows. “We aim to put the rail carriers on notice: we will not submit to this reckless and irresponsible concept (single employee train crews) without a fight.” RWU intends to bring the issue to railroaders of all crafts, the labor movement in general, the public, elected officials and government regulators. We urge railroad workers to get involved in the struggle and to actively resist any and all efforts of the carriers to implement single employee crews.

A petition to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) filed jointly by the unions of the operating crafts in June of 2009 says it all: “No conditions exist where one-person operations are safe.”

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