



Railroad Workers United

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

railroadworkersunited.org • info@railroadworkersunited.org
(206) 984-3051 • PO Box 1053, Salem, IL 62881

RWU Resolution in Support of Limits & Restrictions on Cab Cameras

Whereas, a number of North American rail carriers have shown their desire and intention to implement inward facing cameras; and

Whereas, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has now announced their intention to begin the rules making process for universal camera implementation in the U.S.; and

Whereas, implementation of these cameras is a grave transgression upon the right to privacy of every engineer and trainman in the North America; and

Whereas, the vast majority of railroad accidents are not caused simply by operator error; and

Whereas, most accidents that are in fact blamed on human error, more often than not, are caused by underlying factors such as miscommunication, fatigue, improper training or lack of qualification and a general failure on the part of the rail carrier to implement infrastructure to mitigate against accidents, all of which are factors that video recorders in the cab of the locomotive are not going to correct or alter in any way; and

Whereas, management of Class I railroads already carry out massive amounts of efficiency testing of train crews—most do more testing than what is required by federal regulations—and have already put in place system-wide performance monitoring programs; and

Whereas, all transportation workers – in fact all workers – could fall victim to constant employee surveillance if this attempt to monitor locomotive train crews is implemented; and

Whereas, constant audio and video surveillance would have disastrous consequences for workplace morale, solidarity, worker rights, and in fact, upon safety itself; and

Whereas, if the rail carriers can use invasive video monitoring to point to individual behavior as the cause of railroad accidents, then there would be little incentive for the company to make the necessary investment to address systemic factors -- dangerous conditions, lack of safety devices, overwork, low morale, poor training, worker fatigue—that are the real underlying causes of most railroad accidents and injuries;

Therefore, be it resolved that Railroad Workers United urge all railroad workers and their unions to vigorously oppose inward facing cameras; and

Be it further resolved that this effort include pickets, demonstrations and other activities together with participation in the FRA's upcoming rules making hearings; and

Be it further resolved that should we fail to halt their implementation, that we urge railroad workers and their unions to vigorously push to include limitations and restrictions upon cameras in order that the rail carriers cannot retain and use the data against train and engine crews indefinitely; observe the data for any other reason except in cases of legitimate post-accident/incident; nor discipline or otherwise take reprisal against T&E crews for observations not pertinent to the accident/incident at hand;

Be it finally resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the leadership of the various rail unions in North America.

***This Resolution adopted at the Fourth Biennial RWU Convention
April 3rd & 4th, 2014 -- Chicago, Illinois***

