



Railroad Workers United

Solidarity • Unity • Democracy

The Rank & File in Action!

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Resolution in Support of Improved Track Maintenance

Whereas, track conditions are a leading cause of train derailments in the United States, accounting for approximately one-third of all train accidents, according to data published by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA); and

Whereas, of the 1220 reportable train derailments that occurred in 2014, a full 39 percent (475) were determined to be track caused; and

Whereas, of main line accidents, 329 were classified as derailments and 47 percent (155) of these were reported by the railroads to be track caused; and

Whereas, the technology, skilled workers, machinery, and higher track standards already exist, and the railroads have the financial resources to attain such standards; and

Whereas, well maintained track is crucial, especially now with the skyrocketing of crude by rail shipments in the past few years and given the devastating effects that a derailment of crude can have upon railroad workers, communities and the environment; and

Whereas, transporting crude oil on U.S. railroads grew from just 9,500 carloads in 2008 to more than 400,000 carloads in 2013; and

Whereas, the President of the track workers union in the U.S., the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division (BMWED) notes that the "BMWED has been actively pursuing common sense track safety improvements for years; however, the industry arrogantly claims they cannot afford to maintain the tracks to a higher safety standard,"

Therefore, Be it Resolved, that Railroad Workers United demands that the rail carriers properly maintain all tracks to a higher standard, especially those that will carry unit train of crude oil; and

Be it further Resolved, that RWU will include workshops and discussions of track maintenance in future rail safety conferences that it sponsors; and

Be it finally Resolved, that RWU will urge all community and environmental organizations that it has relations with to adopt similar resolutions and to actively work with rail unions and others to see to it that track maintenance is improved.

Adopted by the RWU Steering Committee 4/8/15