

Resolution in Support of a Rail Safety Coalition

Whereas, RWU has worked successfully in recent years with a myriad of other labor unions, environmental organizations and community groups across the U.S. and Canada; and

Whereas, we have jointly conducted conferences, pickets, rallies, demonstrations, meetings and other events with a number of these groups as well as individual activists; and

Whereas, the issue of rail safety has broad appeal to a sizable sector of the population, as represented by the vast number of groups that RWU has been able to engage positively with; and

Whereas the issue of rail safety in an ongoing issue that is bound to take center stage time and time again in the coming years, whether the issue be deferred maintenance of infrastructure, unsafe oil trains, single employee train crews, chronic worker fatigue, short-staffing, excessively long & heavy trains, grade crossing accidents, and a myriad of other issues; and

Whereas, neither RWU nor its allies and coalition partners have the wherewithal alone to take on the vast array of issues, nor do we possess the political power to successfully take on the rail corporations and the government; and

Whereas, it is highly inefficient to re-create a new “coalition” each and every time a rail safety issue or crisis takes center stage;

Therefore, be it Resolved that Railroad Workers United support the founding of a Rail Safety Coalition to be comprised of the broadest possible array of organizations that are concerned with – and have a track record of fighting for – rail safety; and

Be it further Resolved that RWU encourage these organizations to join us in this effort; and

Be it Finally Resolved that this Resolution be forwarded to the governing body of all labor, community, and environmental organizations that RWU has fraternal ties with.

Recommended for Adoption by the RWU Steering Committee