Railroad Workers United Campaigns Against Precision Scheduled Railroading

A railroad operating plan known as “Precision Scheduled Railroading” (PSR) has been thrust into the limelight in recent years, propelled largely by stockholders and hedge fund investors who see the railroad as a way to make a quick buck. While capturing the ardor of much of the rail industry, PSR has earned the wrath of railroad workers of all crafts, freight shippers from all sectors, passengers, and passenger train advocacy groups.

Railroad Workers United has opposed its excesses and worst practices throughout this time. But in early March, the organization decided it was time to take a stand in direct opposition to PSR, which it considers a sham and a farce. We hope that our actions will inspire others - passenger rail advocates, environmental organizations, public officials and unions - to get on board and vocalize their opposition to this short-sighted operating plan that threatens the future of the rail industry itself. Even Matt Rose, recently retired CEO of the BNSF (not a publicly traded corporation and therefore not directly subject to the whims of Wall Street investors) has decried PSR as a gimmick. If a millionaire rail CEO working for a billionaire investment capitalist can step up and criticize this hoax, we certainly can!

RWU has adopted a comprehensive “Resolution in Opposition to Precision Scheduled Railroading” (see Page 7) and takes up the whole question of this controversial operating plan in both the Commentary on Page 10 and in our Editorial on Page 11.