“Solutionary Rail” Project Gains Traction Among Diverse Constituencies

As communities search for solutions to environmental and economic problems, more and more citizens, organizations, and governmental bodies are looking to rail as the preferred mode of transportation. While Wall Street may have a narrow and short-term profit oriented view of what rail is capable of achieving, these folks are thinking long-term and comprehensively, with a vision to assisting rail employment, the environment, passengers, tribes, and other stakeholders.

One campaign which strives to move freight and passengers off the highways and airways and back to rail is called “Solutionary Rail”. They have developed a unique proposal complete with a website, a book, a promo video, and group of dedicated activists from around the nation. It describes itself as a “People powered campaign to electrify America’s railroads and open corridors to a clean energy future.” The basic strategy is to unite railroad workers with passengers, farmers, native tribes, trackside communities, green energy developers, rural communities and the rail industry in an effort to make rail the preferred mode of transport for freight and passengers in targeted corridors. By utilizing the efficiencies of rail transport coupled with the power of clean energy, combined with increased track capacity and higher speeds, Solutionary Rail envisions a future where the rail industry employs far more workers, moves a far greater number of passengers, and handles a far greater percentage of freight than is currently the case.

Railroad Workers United is a member organization of the Solutionary Rail Team, and supports these kinds of innovative and forward thinking efforts aimed at rail expansion. For more information, see the website at www.solutionaryrail.org. Please consider buying the book. It is available from the RWU online Store ON SALE this spring for just $15.00.