



Railroad Workers United

Solidarity • Unity • Democracy

The Rank & File in Action!

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RWU Resolution on Common Contract Expiration Dates May Day 2028

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Whereas, the US labor movement is undergoing a revival and a renaissance the likes of which we have not seen for decades; and

Whereas, recent years have witnessed a spike in the number of strikes, contract campaign fights, and job actions by U.S. workers, rebuilding a sense of confidence and solidarity among the working class as a whole; and

Whereas, shortly after the United Auto Workers' (UAW) victorious 45-day strike against the Big Three, union President Shawn Fain issued a call, suggesting that all unions consider bargaining contracts with a common expiration date of May 1st, 2028; and

Whereas, historically, unions have been hampered in efforts at solidarity with one another due to the fact that each one is bound to a legal contract that prohibits them from striking in solidarity; and

Whereas, a common expiration date would greatly assist in rebuilding unity and solidarity amongst the mass of workers from the myriad unions and industries; and

Whereas, the specification of May 1st is highly appropriate, given the fact that the U.S. Labor movement - 138 years ago in 1886 - likewise called for collective and joint action on May Day to pressure the powers-that-be to win the 8-hour day, giving birth to the international holiday on May 1st known as International Workers' Day;

Therefore, be it Resolved that Railroad Workers United fully support President Fain and the United Auto Workers' call for common expiration dates across industries - to the extent possible - for union contracts; and

Be it Further Resolved that RWU - understanding the limitations and restrictions placed upon railroad workers by the Railway Labor Act - calls on railroad workers and all railroad unions to likewise support the UAW's forward thinking invitation, and while we may not be legally able to strike on May 1st, we should make every effort to coordinate our bargaining strategy to coincide with the rest of the labor movement; and

Be it Finally Resolved that RWU encourages its members and all railroad workers to introduce similar resolutions at their division/lodge/local union to be forwarded to the national division conventions of the respective rail unions' for consideration of the delegates assembled.

**Adopted by the Members Assembled at the RWU 9th Biennial Convention
Chicago, Illinois 4/18/2024**