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RWU Resolution In Support of ILWU

Whereas, in 2011, members of International Longshore & Wharehouse Union (ILWU) were engaged in a battle with shipping giant EGT; and

Whereas, union members in such a struggle both need and deserve the solidarity and support of their brothers and sisters in other sectors of the transportation industry; and

Whereas, at every major port, including the port of Longview, WA where this battle took place, is serviced by one or more rail carriers; and

Whereas, prompt efficient delivery of rail freight to and from the docks is viewed as vital by the shipping companies in their efforts to combat the Longshore workers and their union; and

Whereas, railroad worker solidarity with Longshore workers engaged in such struggles like at Longview would go a long way to assisting these brothers and sisters win a victory; and

Whereas, railroad worker solidarity actions with Longshore workers will not soon be forgotten, and would compel these fellow workers to stand with us when we need them; and

Whereas, railroad workers are bound by union constitution and moral imperative not to cross another union's picket line, yet neither the leadership of either of the operating craft unions uttered a word when our members were faced with ILWU the picket lines;

Therefore, be it Resolved, that RWU call upon the rail labor leadership to appear at rallies, demonstrations, pickets and other future activities sponsored by the ILWU; and

Be it further resolved that our leadership make it clear to the membership just how important the struggles of other transport workers are, to insist that the membership honor any and all picket lines, and to proclaim their unwavering support for any railroad union member who is disciplined or harassed by any rail carrier for such activity.

This Resolution adopted by the members assembled at the RWU Third Biennial Convention Friday, May 4th, 2012 in Chicago, Illinois