



Railroad Workers United

Solidarity • Unity • Democracy

The Rank & File in Action!

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RWU Resolution on Autonomy & Independence

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Whereas the railroad craft unions, together with labor federations (Change to Win, AFL-CIO) regularly historically endorsed political candidates of the dominant established political parties (particularly the Democrats); and

Whereas labor federation and union campaigns to elect ‘friendly’ candidates over the course of rail labor’s 150 year history have served to divert energy and resources away from workers’ struggles to address issues of safety and better working conditions in the rail industry; and

Whereas while RWU recognizes the limitations and restrictions of craft unionism, and as such, refrains from aligning itself with *any* union, RWU members are encouraged to be active within their respective unions to build power within our workplaces and solidarity among *all* unions; and

Whereas individual members of RWU are encouraged to think critically, independently, and inclusively as we work together to build the strength of rail labor; and

Whereas partisanship and sectarianism have historically proven harmful to productive debate, and are incompatible with RWU’s commitment to unity, solidarity, and democracy; and

Whereas RWU has been committed to political independence from the time of our founding convention, codifying this principle in our Bylaws at that time;

Therefore, Be it Resolved that RWU will not, formally or informally, affiliate with *any* political organization or party; and

Be it Further Resolved that RWU will not endorse *any* candidates for political office; and

Be it Further Resolved that RWU likewise pledges to remain independent of *any and all* unions in order that we can continue to strengthen solidarity amongst *all* unions; and

Be it Finally Resolved that while RWU may cooperate and form coalition with other labor organizations, worker movements and political parties to achieve mutually beneficial goals, RWU will actively defend and protect its autonomy from such organizations.

Adopted by the RWU Steering Committee October 7, 2015