



Railroad Workers United

Unity • Solidarity • Democracy
"The Rank and File in Action!"

P. O. Box 1053 Salem, IL 62888 206-984-3051
www.railroadworkersunited.org info@railroadworkersunited.org

Railroad Workers United Resolution On Alternative Technologies to Cameras in Locomotive Cabs

Co-Chairs

Jon Flanders, IAM 1145
CSX, Selkirk, NY

Ed Michael, UTU #979 BLET #724
UP, Salem, IL

Robert Hill, BLET #758
BNSF, Vancouver, WA

General Secretary

Ron Kaminkow, BLET #51
AMTK, Reno, NV

Recording Secretary

Jen Wallis, BLET 518
BNSF, Seattle, WA

Treasurer

Chet Whyers, UTU #979
UP, Salem, IL

International Steering Committee

Penny Artis, IBEW #813
NS, Roanoke, VA

Steve Desavouret, TCU #6608
CN, Chicago, IL

Jon Flanders, IAM #1145
CSX, Selkirk, NY

Ron Friend, BMWED #1509
CSX, Marietta, OH

Robert Hill, BLET #758
BNSF Vancouver, WA

Ron Kaminkow, BLET #51
Amtrak, Reno, NV

Mike Matson, UTU #911
CP, St. Paul, MN

Ed Michael, UTU #979 BLET #724
UP, Salem, IL

Jen Wallis, BLET #518
BNSF, Seattle, WA

Matt Weaver, BMWED #2624
CSX, Toledo, OH

John Wright, BLET #78
CSX, Louisville, KY

Whereas, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) in January 2010 made a recommendation that inward facing cameras be used to constantly monitor train crew activities; and

Whereas, this recommendation by the NTSB is based on the NTSB's ongoing investigation into the causes of the September 12, 2008, accident in Chatsworth, California involving a Metrolink commuter train and a Union Pacific freight train; and

Whereas, this accident involved 25 fatalities and over 100 injuries; and

Whereas, the NTSB's ongoing investigation has unearthed preliminary information that the engineer of the Metrolink commuter train was both sending and receiving multiple text messages while operating the train; and

Whereas, the NTSB has recommended that inward facing cameras with audio pick-up be installed in the operating cab of all locomotives; and

Whereas, the NTSB has further recommended that railroad carriers be required to "regularly review and use in-cab audio and image recordings (with appropriate limitations on public release), in conjunction with other performance data, to verify that train crew actions are in accordance with rules and procedures that are essential to safety;"

Therefore Be It Resolved, that Railroad Workers United (RWU) acknowledges that the use of wireless devices -- including cell phones -- is, in fact, a distraction from the safe operation of locomotives and trains; and

Be It Further Resolved, that RWU supports an alternative to the highly intrusive video and audio monitoring of train crews proposed by the NTSB in the operating cabs of all locomotives; and

Be It Further Resolved, that RWU supports the installation of alternative non-intrusive technologies, including but not limited to:

- Cell phone jamming equipment that automatically functions whenever the reverser of the locomotive is not centered; and/or
- Alarm systems that sound if/when an active cell phone is brought into the cab of a locomotive; and/or
- Sensors that detect cell phone signals and instigate a penalty application of the train brakes when one is detected in the locomotive cab; and/or
- Other technologies of this type that actually prevent the locomotive from moving when an active cell phone is present in the cab.

Be It Finally Resolved, that RWU offers this as an alternative counter to cell phone use, to be considered by the appropriate authorities including, but not limited to, the railroad carriers, the United Transportation Union (UTU), the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

This Resolution adopted by the members assembled at the RWU Second Biennial Convention Friday, April 23rd, 2010 in Dearborn, Michigan