



Railroad Workers United

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

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Railroad Workers United Resolution Condemning Top-Down Unionism

Whereas, dozens of central labor councils across the country, together with dozens of International union leaders - including most leaders of the rail shopcraft unions (IBEW, IAM, IBB, SMWIA) have condemned SEIU's raiding and pledged their support to UNITE HERE;

Whereas, the strength of the labor movement is based upon the democratic participation by the rank-and-file and the solidarity between workers and their unions; and

Whereas, healthcare workers in California last year formed an independent union, the National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW), after the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) national leaders seized control of the workers' SEIU affiliate due to its criticism of SEIU; and

Whereas this criticism was fully justified based upon the SEIU leaders' undemocratic practices, top-down "sweetheart deals" with employers, and forced mergers of SEIU locals; and

Whereas, California healthcare workers have since filed formal petitions with state and federal labor agencies requesting elections covering 100,000 workers so they can leave SEIU and join NUHW; and

Whereas, SEIU officials have blocked workers' elections and collaborated with employers to retaliate against rank-and-file workers seeking to join NUHW; and

Whereas, workers who are forming NUHW seek to build a member-led, democratic, transparent union based on the principles of solidarity, worker empowerment and industrial unionism;

Whereas, in addition, the SEIU has created an enormous rift in the labor movement in the U.S. with its raiding of other unions, primarily its attacks upon the UNITE HERE union;

Therefore, Be it Resolved that Railroad Workers United (RWU) expresses its solidarity with NUHW and the thousands of California healthcare workers who are working to create their bottom-up union; and

Be it Further Resolved, that RWU expresses its solidarity with the rank-and-file membership of UNITE HERE in their efforts to resist any and all hostile attempts to take over their union;

Be it Further Resolved that RWU calls on the rest of rail labor - particularly the operating crafts -- to join the chorus of organized labor around the country and condemn the raiding and express support for the healthcare workers' efforts to gain rank-and-file control and democracy; and

Be It Finally Resolved that RWU urges rail workers and others to support the healthcare workers' efforts by providing financial contributions to the Fund for Union Democracy & Reform.

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