



# **Railroad Workers United**

***Solidarity • Unity • Democracy***

***The Rank & File in Action!***

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## **RWU Resolution in Support of Continued Public Ownership of the Cincinnati Southern Railway**

**Whereas**, The City of Cincinnati had the rare foresight to build and maintain control of a railroad linking the city to the South; and

**Whereas**, The Cincinnati Southern is an example of publicly owned rail infrastructure in North America that needs to be expanded, not eliminated; and

**Whereas**, Private for-profit Class One railroad Norfolk Southern (NS) has offered \$1.6 billion to purchase the railroad after decades of leasing it from the City; and

**Whereas**, the railroad has served the citizens of the City well for more than 100 years and its future as a center of commerce should not be left to the whims and desires of a private Fortune 500 corporation; and

**Whereas**, a passenger route soon to be revived will connect Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati, a route that could easily be extended through Lexington to Chattanooga and Atlanta on publicly held rail infrastructure but if sold off to NS, would be far more difficult to achieve; and

**Whereas**, the railroad has the potential to handsomely reward the citizens of the City for decades/centuries to come if it remains owned by the City; and

**Whereas**, Railroad Workers United (RWU) has called for the public ownership of the rail industry as a pathway to developing a more robust, modern, efficient, labor and environmentally friendly means of conveying freight and passengers across the continent; and

**Whereas**, Whereas a burgeoning local movement of citizens now exists to keep the railroad municipally owned;

**Therefore, Be it Resolved** that Railroad Workers United urge the the city to reverse its decision to sell the railroad to NS or any other private entity; and

**Be it Further Resolved** that, if the city continues to offer the sale, that RWU urges the citizens of the City of Cincinnati to reject the proposed sale in the mandatory plebiscite which will be conducted at some point in the future; and

**Be it Finally Resolved** that RWU urges the various rail craft unions, environmental groups, citizens organizations in the Cincinnati area to build a coalition to stop the proposed sale and keep the Cincinnati Southern Railroad in public hands.

**Adopted by the RWU Steering Committee 6/7/2023**