

October 10, 2022
M22-00x

To: SPEEA Council Representatives

From: Joel Funfar (P2),

Subject: **New Business: Support of Railway Workers and possible strike**

Background

On October 10th The U.S.'s third largest railroad union rejected a deal with employers Monday, renewing the possibility of a strike that could cripple the economy. Both sides will return to the bargaining table before that happens.

Our 737 bodies made in Wichita are shipped by rail to Renton.

Over half of track maintenance workers represented by the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division (BMWED) who voted opposed the five-year contract despite 24% raises and \$5,000 in bonuses

Four other railroad unions have approved their agreements with freight railroads including BNSF, Union Pacific, Kansas City Southern, CSX and Norfolk Southern, but all 12 unions representing 115,000 workers must ratify their contracts to prevent a strike. Another union, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, initially rejected its deal but has since renegotiated a new contract. Voting will be completed in mid-November.

The Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way union said it agreed to delay any strike until five days after Congress reconvenes in mid-November to allow time for additional negotiations.

SPEEA after our second strike in 2000, set up a budget line to support other unions on strike to pay it back to those that supported us in our time of need.

Why are workers striking?

Union President Tony Cardwell said the railroads didn't do enough to address the lack of paid time off — particularly sick time — and working conditions after the major railroads eliminated nearly one-third of their jobs over the past six years.

"Railroaders are discouraged and upset with working conditions and compensation and hold their employer in low regard. Railroaders do not feel valued," Cardwell said in a statement. "They resent the fact that management holds no regard for their quality of life, illustrated by their stubborn reluctance to provide a higher quantity of paid time off, especially for sickness."

"The rail industry has seen huge profits in recent years and last year alone made a record-breaking \$20 billion in profit," Sanders said. "Last year, the CEO of CSX made over \$20 million in total compensation, while the CEOs of Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern made over \$14 million each in total compensation."

By contrast, Sanders said that workers in the freight rail industry are "entitled to a grand total of zero sick days."

Other links:

<https://act.aflcio.org/forms/support-freight-rail-workers?source=aflcio>

<https://www.seattletimes.com/business/large-rail-union-rejects-deal-renewing-strike-possibility/>

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/10/business/railroad-union-vote-strike-threat>

<https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/3643255-sanders-blocks-proposal-to-force-rail-unions-to-accept-labor-deal/>

<https://thehill.com/business-a-lobbying/business-lobbying/3681950-third-largest-rail-union-rejects-deal-renewing-possibility-of-strike/>

Motion

It is moved **that the SPEEA Council supports Railway workers, in their fight for a good contract. And if a strike does happen a donation of 3000.00 dollars in food aid for the union members.**

And it is further moved to send a letter of support and inform our members of how they can support these workers on strike, and to support them in other ways.