

REMOTE CONTROL RESOLUTION

Whereas, one of the primary goals of the Alabama AFL-CIO is to help secure safe work places for Alabama workers: and

Whereas, the Alabama AFL-CIO is dedicated to the proposition that all citizens of Alabama have a right to a safe environment, free from the hazards of the uncontrolled releases of hazardous materials: and

Whereas, these dangerous chemicals are subject to uncontrolled releases and spillage when railroad cars carrying such chemicals, are ruptured during derailments or collisions with other rolling stock: and

Whereas, the railroads operating in Alabama have implemented remote control locomotives (RCL) operations in which unmanned locomotives will be used to switch railcars containing hazardous chemicals or switch cars on tracks adjacent to cars containing hazardous materials, occupied locomotives, and passenger trains: and

Whereas, in the United States, railroad companies have been allowed to implement these RCL operations without Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regulations in spite of a request by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen to the FRA (November, 2000) and these railroad companies have failed to implement adequate training programs for remote control operations (RCO'S): and

Whereas, these railroad companies have failed to adopt and/or enforce the operational practices most critical for employee and public safety recommended by the FRA Safety Advisory on remote control operations (February), 2000) and these railroad companies have failed to implement adequate training programs for remote control operations (RCO'S) and:

Whereas, more than (100) railroad accidents have occurred in RCL operations around the United States within the past three years, during hasty, unregulated implementation of RCL operations run by inadequately trained personal resulting in serious derailments, property damage, releases of hazardous materials, personal injuries and even death to employees:

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Alabama AFL-CIO calls upon the State of Alabama to prohibit the use of RCL technology in switching operations until such time as: (1) A through risk assessment study of RCL operations has been made and published by a third party: (2) An FRA regulation governing RCL operations is promulgated: (3) The railroad companies of Alabama give proper notice to all City, County, Municipal and State Emergency Planning Commissions of their RCL operations and specify the locations where those operations will take place:

Be It Finally Resolved, that the officers of the Alabama AFL-CIO will write a letter to Alan Rutter, FRA Administrator, calling on him to reopen FRA Docket No. 2000-8422, recommending the study of RCL operations as requested by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, so that railroad employees, citizens, and communities which may be affected can register their concerns about the safety of railroad operations in their neighborhoods.