

~~March 2011/2008~~

Whereas, a core responsibility of the King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO is to advocate and support laws that protect working people in King County Washington; and

Whereas, the King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO is the central body of labor organization representing more than 13 million working people; and

Whereas, within King County two Class One railroads involved in the transportation of hazardous material (HAZMAT) by rail; and

Whereas, as significant amount of these hazardous chemicals are transported in King County through our cities, neighborhoods, and in very close proximity to our homes, schools, hospitals and public access areas; and

Whereas, hazardous materials are subject to uncontrolled release if their containers are rupture during a derailment or collision; and

Whereas, multiple crossings at grade are utilized within high population and or public crossings; and

Whereas, railroads in King County are operating Remote Control Locomotive Technology (unmanned locomotives) across crossings at grade, with as little as two weeks of training; and

Whereas, heretofore Class One railroads have manned their locomotives with Locomotive Engineers, who are rigorously certified and fully qualified by standards established by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA); and

Whereas, the FRA has allowed railroads to establish a program of lessened training, and qualification requirements for remote control operators, without regard to the wishes of the Citizens of King County; and

Whereas, the FRA has issued only non-binding "guidelines" to govern the day-to-day operational practices involving Remote Control locomotives; and

Whereas, railroads have failed to adopt all of the provisions of these FRA "guidelines" for operational practices; and

Whereas, Point Protection is absolutely necessary to the safe operation of any railroad operating practice;

Now, Therefore be it resolved, that the King County Labor Council AFL-CIO supports the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen an affiliate of the International Brotherhood of Teamster Railway Labor Conference, and hereby admonishes all railroads within the limits of King County and it's cities to use fully qualified and Federally Certified Locomotive Engineers to operate all Locomotives; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the King County Labor Council AFL-CIO calls on the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to move forward with Proposed Rulemaking (CR-102) under Docket Number TR-040151 providing Point Protection for Washington State citizens as part of Chapter 480-62 WAC; and

Be It Finally Resolved, that in the interest of public safety, the President of the King County Labor Council AFL-CIO, will send a letter to Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission in support of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainman a Division of the Railway Conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, in support of these proposed rules.