

## HAZMAT

**WHEREAS**, a primary goal of the Ohio AFL-CIO is to help secure a safe workplace for all Ohio workers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ohio State AFL-CIO is dedicated to the proposition that all citizens of Ohio have a right to a safe environment, free from the hazards of uncontrolled releases of hazardous material (HAZMAT) and the security of our homeland; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Homeland Security has issued alerts to rail carriers, warning of possible terrorist attacks on our rail infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, these dangerous materials are subject to uncontrolled releases and spillage when railroad cars carrying HAZMAT are ruptured during derailments or collisions with other rolling stock; and

**WHEREAS**, heretofore all railroads have manned their trains with rigorously certified and fully qualified Engineers, who have over 1,000 hours of training; and

**WHEREAS**, Railroads operating in Ohio have implemented unregulated, untested and potentially dangerous automation technology upon Ohio's rail lines; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has issued nonbinding, voluntary guidelines to Ohio's rail carriers that allow them to use remotely controlled locomotives, operated by individuals who only have 40 hours of training and without other recommended safety measures in place; and

**WHEREAS**, scores of accidents have occurred within Ohio and the United States as a result of the use automated technology, and many more have occurred that have not been reported to FRA and the public, during hasty, unregulated implementation of remote controlled train operations, resulting in serious derailments, property damage, HAZMAT release, personal injuries and death to employees; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Ohio AFL-CIO supports the position of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, a Division of the Rail Conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and hereby admonishes all railroads within the State of Ohio to use fully qualified locomotive operators in all train service operations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Ohio AFL-CIO calls on the Federal Railroad Administration to: (1) develop comprehensive safety regulations for the use of automated train technology and remote controlled locomotives, and that those regulations ensure the highest level of skill and qualifications of persons operating such equipment; and (2) implement mandatory Protection Zones in and around remotely controlled trains, which would provide a significant increase in public and worker safety; and (3) allow an independent, third party audit of train accident reporting in the rail industry; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Ohio AFL-CIO calls on the Ohio Legislature to enact regulations governing the safe use of remotely controlled trains within Ohio's boundaries; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Ohio AFL-CIO admonishes the Railroads operating remote control locomotives within the State of Ohio to: (1) cease handling HAZMAT with such equipment; and (2) to notify the Ohio Office of Homeland Security of the nature and location of all remote control locomotive operations, so that the Ohio Office of Homeland Security may coordinate with local emergency planning agencies in the areas where such operations are being performed.

Submitted by: Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, IBT