



UTAH STATE AFL-CIO



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February 3, 2004

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

Whereas, the Utah State AFL-CIO takes an active interest in the safety of all Utah citizens, and the security of our homeland; and

Whereas, the State of Utah has two Class One railroads involved in the transportation of hazardous materials (HAZMAT) by rail; and

Whereas, a significant amount of these hazardous chemicals, soon to include nuclear waste, that are transported on the Utah railroads travel through our cities and neighborhoods and in close proximity to our homes, schools and hospitals; and

Whereas, hazardous materials are subject to uncontrolled release if their container is ruptured during a railroad derailment or collision; and

Whereas, railroads in Utah are now using Remote Control Locomotive Technology (unmanned locomotives) in their rail operations; and

Whereas, railroads in Utah will be conducting these remote control operations with employees who receive as little as two weeks training; and

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

Whereas, the Federal Railroad Administration has allowed railroads to establish a new program of lessened training, testing, and qualification requirements for remote control operators, without regard to the wishes of the Citizens of the State of Utah; 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 the provisions of these minimal FRA guidelines for operational practices;

Now, Therefore Be it resolved, that the Utah State AFL-CIO supports the position of The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and hereby admonishes all railroads within the State of Utah to continue to use fully qualified Locomotive Engineers to operate all locomotives, including those remotely controlled; and

Be It Further Resolved, that The Utah State AFL-CIO calls on the Public Service Commission of Utah to require railroads operating Remote Control Locomotive Technology to: (1) fully comply with the minimum railroad safety requirements to be adopted by the Public Service Commission of Utah; and (2) notify the Public Service Commission of Utah as to the nature and location of remote control railroad operations, so that the Commission may coordinate with local emergency planning agencies in the areas such operations are being uses; and

Be It Further Resolved, that, in the interest of public safety, The Utah State AFL-CIO admonishes the Federal Railroad Administration to develop comprehensive safety regulations for the use of remote control locomotives, and that those regulations ensure the highest level of skill and qualification of persons operating all locomotives; and

Be It finally Resolved, that The President of the Utah State AFL-CIO will send a letter to FRA Finance Docket No. 2000-8422, which was established at the request of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and ask Alan Rutter, administrator of the FRA, to promulgate enforceable regulations governing Remote Control Locomotive Technology that will ensure the safety of the employees, citizens and communities of the State of Utah.



Ed Mayne, President
Utah AFL-CIO

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