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CONFIDENTIAL
BEFORE PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY BOARD NO. 250 ARBITRATION HEARING IN THE MATTER OF:
AMERICAN TRAIN DISPATCHERS ASSOCIATION; BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS AND TRAINMEN/IBT; BROTHERHOOD OF MAINTENANCE OF WAY EMPLOYEES DIVISION/IBT; BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD SIGNALMEN; INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS; INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SHEET METAL, AIR, RAIL AND TRANSPORTATION WORKERS MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT; INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF BOILERMAKERS; INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS; NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF FIREMEN & OILERS, LOCAL 32BJ/SEIU; TRANSPORTATION COMMUNICATIONS UNION/IAM; BROTHERHOOD OF RAILWAY CARMEN DIVISION, TCU/IAM; AND TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA
NMB Case Nos. A-13998 (ATDA), A-13999 (BLET), A-13986 (BMWED), A-14000 (BRS), A-14001 (IAM), A-14005 (SMART-TD), A-13985 (SMART-MD), A-14002 (IBB), A-14003 (IBEW), A-14004 (NCFO), A-14006 (TCU/IAM-Clerical), A-14007 (TCU/IAM-Carmen), and A-14008 (TWU)
Held at: Grand Hyatt Washington 1000 H Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001
VOLUME III Tuesday, July 26, 2022 8:04 a.m. EST to 5:59 p.m. EST Reported by: Okeemah S. Henderson, LSR

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MORNING SESSION (8:04 a.m.)	1 Southern California, the newest member of Big	
CONFIDENTIAL PROCEEDINGS	2 10 for those who pay attention to that. But I	
	3 spent 30 years studying health economics. I'm	
CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Good morning	4 the founder of something called the Leonard D.	
everyone. We're ready to resume with the	5 Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and	
remainder of the Carriers' case-in-chief.	6 Economics at the University of Southern	
Mr. Munro.	7 California, and I'm still the co-director of	
MR. MUNRO: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,	8 that. You may not have heard of it, but if you	
Members of the Board. I'd like to call the	⁹ look at the rankings in health economics in	
Carriers' third and final witness on our	10 terms of citations, we are third in the	
healthcare case, Dr. Dana Goldman.	11 country; that is we are just below MIT and	
CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: And may I ask the	12 Harvard, and just above University of Chicago,	
court reporter to swear in Dr. Goldman.	13CAL, and Princeton. So we think we're doing	
THEREUPON:	14 okay.	
DANA GOLDMAN	15And I have been studying these issues	
was called for examination, and, after being	16 myself for many decades, and it's a pleasure to	
duly sworn, testified as follows:	17 talk to you about them. What I'd like to do is	
DR. GOLDMAN: Thank you for having me	18talk to you about the role of cost sharing and	
here today. I'm going to turn off my phone. I	19 how it affects the railroad population and let	
apologize.	20 me start with an executive summary.	
My name is Dana Goldman. I'm the Dean	21 Cost sharing is an important part of	
of the Policy School at that University of	22 health plan design. It prevents the overuse of	

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1	healthcare services, including unnecessary and
2	inefficient care. And the best evidence,
3	including from randomized studies, demonstrates
4	that reasonable cost sharing reduces
5	utilization and does not adversely affect
6	health. And during the last bargaining round,
7	I examined with my colleagues the changes
8	following PEB 243 and demonstrated that it
9	lowered healthcare service use without
10	adversely affecting members' health.
11	And so, similar, there's no evidence
12	that vulnerable members experience worse
13	quality of care or were not able to access
14	needed medications. I'll show you this in a
15	few minutes. And further, that the proposed
16	plan design here in this negotiation will
17	reduce members' utilization without adversely
18	impacting health or quality of care.
19	So now I'd like to show you how I got to
20	those conclusions and let me start with some
21	background. There's been a lot of discussion I
22	know about something called the RAND Health

Insurance Experiment and its applicability here. This is a study done in 1975 to 1981, and it was a randomized study and rolled households into various cost sharing plans. And the reason why this is important is because we know that other things are changes. When you change benefits, for example, over time, you also can be changing other things as well. And so what this does is it gives a causal estimate, if you will, of how cost sharing affects people's behavior. And they examine health status at the start and end of respondent surveys. This slide gives you an example. So people were randomized, for example, to a free plan. Now, all of these plans had an out-of-pocket maximum, and I think that's important. But what you find is that as you -- I'm sorry -- that as you move from a free plan, for example, to 25 percent cost sharing, you reduce face-to-face visits, you reduce hospital admissions, and you reduce emergency room visits.

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1	And this is kind of the gold standard to	1
2	which other studies have been compared. And if	2
3	you look at work by Jonathan Kolstad and Brot-	3
4	Goldberg at University of Chicago, you know,	4
5	they write in their NBER working paper, which I	5
6	know has been submitted here, that though quite	6
7	different in terms of context, our results	7
8	mirror those found in the RAND Health Insurance	8
9	Experiment and so on and so forth. If you look	9
10	at the work by Abe Dunn who's at the Department	10
11	of Labor, the main result of the paper is that	11
12	the price elasticity of utilization, which is	12
13	really a measure of how cost sharing effects	13
14	use is similar to the RAND study.	14
15	Now you might say, well, this study is	15
16	50 years old, and medicine has changed a lot.	16
17	And I just want to point out, so I'm talking to	17
18	you now, and if I reach into my pocket, it's	18
19	because the beeping is my insulin pump. I have	19
20	Type 1 diabetes. If you look around the time	20
21	they were doing the RAND study, they also did	21
22	something called the Diabetes Control and	22

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L	Complications trial, and it randomized people
2	to intensive monitoring of their glucose who
3	had Type 1 diabetes. That study is still the
1	protocol typical study that has taught us how
5	to change how to treat and manage diabetes.
5	And the reason is because human behavior is the
7	same, and the key to controlling diabetes is
3	tight control. Now, the technology is
9	different. There are new pumps, new
)	medications and the like, and so you have to be
L	careful. But the notion that human behavior
2	has an important role to play in both
3	generating costs and outcomes is key, and
1	that's the salient feature of the HIE.
5	And the criticism that I've heard
5	leveled here is that the experience in other
7	programs, and I've put in these Medicaid and
3	Medicare isn't relevant. And in particular,
9	studies of high deductible plans demonstrate
)	that it can be harmful. And I think it's
L	important to understand two things about this.
2	One is that is why it is so important to

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		1	
1	examine the railroad population and ask how did	1	forty miles an hour. Okay. And so incremental
2	benefit design change their health outcomes and	2	changes in cost sharing may not have the same
3	their utilization.	3	consequences as imposing very severe and the
4	And the second is what has really	4	literature maybe we'll get to that in the
5	changed over time, and I used diabetes as an	5	question.
6	example, is the management of chronic disease	6	Anyway, I'd like to talk a little bit
7	and access to med so it's important to look	7	about the changes that were implemented in
8	at access to medications, and also the	8	January 2012 to 2014 as a result of PEB 243.
9	experience of people with chronic illness. And	9	These are summarized here, and you can see that
10	I do that in my analysis that I'm going to show	10	there were two different groups who implemented
11	you right now.	11	the benefit design changes at different times.
12	But one other thing I'll say about this.	12	So the coinsurance rate changed over the
13	This high deductible plan, maybe a metaphor is	13	course of these periods. There was
14	useful here, which is that, you know, if you	14	deductibles were phased in for the national
15	think about speeding, if we get into a car and	15	plan. And so what you had is differential
16	we press on the accelerator, and we go from 0	16	timing of benefit design changes within the
17	to 100, we know that is dangerous, potentially	17	railroad population. And this sets up a quasi-
18	quite dangerous. But looking at the experience	18	experimental design that I'm happy to answer
19	of people in high deductible plans who went	19	questions about. But it allows us to simulate
20	from free cost sharing, which is like going	20	something that looks like the RAND HIE.
21	from 0 to 100, doesn't tell me if it's	21	And when we analyze these data, we saw
22	dangerous to go from thirty miles an hour to	22	that there was significant reductions in
		1	

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1	hospital admissions, outpatient visits,	1
2	emergency visits. And I'll point out that on	2
3	the bottom row you see that urgent care visits	3
4	went up 14 percent. This was actually a tool	4
5	of the plan design if you know it's buried	5
6	in a footnote. But the copay went from 25-	6
7	dollars to 20-dollars, and we see visits going	7
8	up. And so this population is obviously	8
9	responding to these design changes in the way	9
10	they use care.	10
11	And then the question becomes, were they	11
12	potentially were there adverse consequences?	12
13	And so we looked at measures like preventable	13
14	hospitalizations, 30-day readmissions, and low	14
15	value services, which I'll come back to in a	15
16	minute, and in no case could we see any	16
17	increase in these things. We if anything,	17
18	we saw a decrease. And then finally another	18
19	important analysis is to not just look at the	19
20	member population overall, but to also look at	20
21	those with a subset of chronic conditions,	21
22	things like COPD, hypertension, that effect	22

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-	this population, diabetes. And what you find,
2	again, is you still don't see an increase in
3	preventable hospitalizations as a result of
l	design changes for example.
5	So that was the last that goes back
5	to 2012, 2014. And the last round there was
1	another change implemented through in 2018,
3	and I think at this point the important
)	question is whether it had a negative impact on
)	people's health. And again, we can set up a
-	natural experiment here, if you will, because
2	there were those who implemented plan changes
5	early versus late, and we can look in that
L	window comparing the early adopters with the
, ,	late adopters. Now, these are very modest plan
5	design changes. So, you know, in the previous
,	round they were much greater, because you're
5	going from nothing to coinsurance and the like.
)	And so but still we can build an
)	econometric model to look at this and look at
	measures of outcomes, and I'd like to talk
2	about those how am I doing on time? Okay.

4 (Pages 610 to 613)

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	2		2
1	Thank you. I forgot to press start on the	1	getting hospitalized for asthma, you know,
2	watch, so I apologize. Feel free to kick me	2	that's often avoidable if they're taking their
3	off any time.	3	medication and caring for themselves
4	So when we looked at total	4	appropriately. And we know that a substantial
5	prescriptions, for example, as I mentioned, one	5	portion of hospitalizations are avoidable.
6	of primary tools for treating chronic disease	6	This has been reported to MedPAC, the Medicare
7	is medication, and that has changed a lot since	7	Payment Advisory Commission.
8	the HIE. When you look at with and without	8	And so what we use is risk adjusted
9	cost sharing changes, if anything, what you see	9	hospitalization rates and look at predicted
10	is that there was a significant increase in the	10	admissions with and without the cost sharing
11	use of both branded and generics in terms of	11	changes. And what we should see is that if we
12	medication. So there's certainly no evidence	12	are worried about health consequences, that we
13	that people aren't getting needed medication.	13	see rises in risk adjusted hospitalization
14	Now for quality of care, I've been	14	rates. But before I get to those results, I've
15	talking about this a lot and there's voluminous	15	mentioned low value services. And one of the
16	literature. And I think one of the you	16	conundrums of the HIE, if you will, is that
17	know, if you look at the work of Joe Newhouse,	17	people think that all health care is good. So
18	for example, what he said is, you know, you	18	I just wanted to you know, we're these
19	really need to monitor ER visits and	19	are open questions, and so what I'm putting
20	hospitalizations. And, you know, we	20	but there's a whole set of professional
21	important quality measure is that avoidable	21	societies, the American Board of Internal
22	hospitalizations. For example, if someone's	22	Medicine, the U.S. Preventive Services Task

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1	Force, The National Academy of Science of which	1
2	I'm a member, the National Institute for	2
3	Health, and Care Quality. And, you know, they	3
4	say there are a bunch of things we're doing in	4
5	healthcare that don't make sense. And up here	5
6	is an example of one. I don't expect you to	6
7	understand the affect after procedure but let	7
8	me just explain it.	8
9	What they did is people often have knee	9
10	pain, arthritic knee pain, osteoarthritis of	10
11	the knee. And they actually did this study.	11
12	It was published in the New England Journal of	12
13	Medicine where they randomized people to	13
14	arthroscopic surgery, which we've all heard of	14
15	where they go in and they clean out the knee.	15
16	And what was interesting is you can say how do	16
17	you randomize people to surgery? Well, people	17
18	are under local anesthesia, and they put up a	18
19	tent. And so for people who are randomized to	19
20	the placebo, they actually played a video of a	20
21	surgery, but it wasn't their own knee, and then	21
22	they put an incision. So they didn't actually	22
		[

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do the surgery. And what they found when they
looked at the data is that people who got the
sham surgery so to speak, got better a little
more quickly, they reported less pain.
Now, if you talk to that's not to say
this trial has been misinterpreted. We're not
saying arthroscopic surgery doesn't have any
value. It obviously does for certain types of
knee problems. But what has happened in health
care, and one of the reasons why we have such
high costs, is that the margin we start doing
stuff when it has minimal clinical benefit, but
it has exceptional cost. And by spending money
on that, we waste resources that could be more
productively used elsewhere in the economy.
End of my lecture. Sorry. So let me get to
the results.
So we looked at these two measures,
hospital admissions, low value services. We
don't see any evidence here that hospital
admissions most recently went up. Risk

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adjusted hospitalizations, which suggest to me

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1	that there weren't any adverse health	1	that design changes are having an impact, it
2	consequences, but we also don't see evidence	2	would be in this vulnerable population. But
3	that we're changing the practice of medicine,	3	again, nothing is statistically significant.
4	which if you think about it in a plan like this	4	The percent change in this design is basically
5	where you have it's a small part of the	5	statistically indistinguishable from zero.
6	healthcare system actually, even though it's a	6	So what does that mean for where we are
7	very large population, a very important plan,	7	now and the predicted impact of the proposed
8	and it's hard to change physician behavior.	8	plan design change? Well, just to give you a
9	And so there are other tools. And that's why	9	sense of history, prior to 2012, the actuarial
10	we like to say that cost sharing is a blunt	10	value or the generosity of the plan was about
11	instrument. Now let me talk a little bit about	11	94 so we have all these benefit change
12	vulnerable populations. I preluded that	12	design features, coinsurance, deductibles,
13	earlier when we looked at the impact under the	13	copays, in-network, and out-of-network care.
14	design changes of PEB 243. You know, what do	14	One useful summary of this is to just say what
15	we mean by a vulnerable subpopulation. Here we	15	fraction does the plan pay. And, you know, the
16	have people with lung disease, hypertension,	16	actuaries will call it actuarial value. I call
17	obesity, diabetes and the like. And we	17	it plan cost sharing. We argue this endlessly.
18	segmented this to people who have three or more	18	But the point is prior to 2012, about 94
19	comorbidities. So those are people who are	19	percent was being paid by the plan. And as a
20	vulnerable and at high risk, and we can	20	result of the design changes in PEB 243, that
21	replicate the analysis again. Look at so	21	94 percent went down to ninety-two. And then
22	you would say if anywhere you're going to see	22	in the current design, it went down again. It

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1	went down to about 90 percent. But as	1
2	healthcare costs have gone up, that number	2
3	creeps up. And the reason why is the out-of-	3
4	pocket maximum, because that you know, as	4
5	things get very expensive, the share that the	5
6	plan has there will go up.	6
7	And so what's being proposed here is a	7
8	design that comes out to around 88 percent	8
9	actuarial value. And just to put this in	9
10	context, we had access to some other employer	10
11	sponsored plans, and what's a rate here	11
12	every dot on here is a plan and a quarter and a	12
13	risk group.	13
14	So, for example, earlier in the year	14
15	when people are in their deductible, the plan	15
16	is paying less of a share. And later in the	16
17	year when people hit their out-of-pocket	17
18	maximum, they end up on the right. And then	18
19	depending on your health and your age group and	19
20	your gender, you'll end up in a different risk	20
21	group.	21
22	And what you see here is, so plans are	22

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getting more generous as you move to the right.
And the plans in blue are other employer
sponsored plans. And the plan they're the
dots in these risk groups. And the ones in
gold are the railroad population. What you see
from this is that this is a very generous plan.
There are no dots in blue over on the right.
That is, you know, that usually when you look
at employer sponsored insurance, you're in the
range of 80 to 90 percent actuarial value. But
the other thing you see when you this is a
graph of hospital outpatient visits. And what
you see is as generosity goes up, use goes up.
Again, this is another demonstration of a
demand curve. That's what economists would
call it. But that use goes up as generosity
goes up. Conversely, use goes down as
generosity goes down. And we replicated this
analysis for office visits, professional visits
and the like, and all of that is summarized
here with predictions of what utilization would
be.

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1	So we were going out-of-sample, so I	1	therapy days is prescription use. And in all
2	wanted to use data from other employer	2	cases what you see, if anything, the results
3	sponsored insurance to look at the 88 percent.	3	are predicting that there would be no change in
4	And what you see is that there will be modest	4	rates of screening and reduced
5	reductions in hospital outpatient visits, but	5	hospitalizations. And you can do that for
6	inpatient hospitalizations, which I have	6	members with respiratory conditions and look at
7	argued, Joe Newhouse has argued is a very	7	their ER visits. Remember I told you that
8	important metric for thinking about quality of	8	asthma story. And then even for very serious
9	care would actually stay the same or go down as	9	things like hospitalizations for heart failure,
10	a result of these cost sharing changes.	10	the data suggests that, if anything, none of
11	Similarly you can look at you know,	11	these are significant, so there won't be any
12	so you can with these data we can look at	12	evidence that people will forgo necessary care.
13	some other measures, like are people getting	13	So with that, I'll conclude. And I'm
14	access to preventative services. So I've	14	happy to answer questions from the Members.
15	mentioned these high deductible plans. A lot	15	BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: Thank you, Dr.
16	of concern is people will avoid their care.	16	Goldman.
17	And so you can look at simple things like	17	DR. GOLDMAN: Did you have anything you
18	cholesterol screening for people with diabetes.	18	wanted to pose?
19	I'm obviously interested in that. A1C is a	19	BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: Yeah, I have a
20	measure of how well you're controlling your	20	question.
21	blood glucose, and it's important to get	21	In the opening statements from the Union
22	screened every three months. And then covered	22	and from their materials, we see that there are
		1	

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1	also very smart, very well-respected health	1	work is again, this is these high deductible
2	economists who disagree with you on this	2	plans. You're talking about plans that have
3	general question of whether or not cost sharing	3	deductibles in the range of 3,000 to \$4,000 and
4	reduces use and reduces health outcomes.	4	out-of-pocket maxima around 6-7,000-dollars.
5	How do you in a broad sense account for	5	And so there is a point at which cost
6	that difference? How do two very smart people	6	sharing will have negative returns. But the
7	on both sides look at the same facts and come	7	question is for modest changes, when you're
8	to different conclusions in this area?	8	going from 92 percent actuarial value to 88
9	DR. GOLDMAN: Yeah. Actually, I don't	9	percent this is my analogy of going from
10	think there is disagreement. This comes and	10	thirty miles an hour to forty miles an hour
11	actually, I trained some of those people on the	11	instead of going from 0 to 100, will you see
12	other side. For example, one of the pieces of	12	evidence.
13	work they cite is by Chandra et al., which	13	And if you look at those studies, and in
14	looked at the Medicare population. And it said	14	the employed studies, you don't see evidence of
15	that copayments in Medicare actually affect	15	that. In fact, you know, a lot of conclusion s
16	health on drugs. So this is looking in the	16	out of that work have been things like the
17	Medicare population at prescription drugs. And	17	important part is the financial protection,
18	actually, he was a former summer intern of mine	18	relieving people's anxiety about things, but
19	at RAND, so I know this work well.	19	it's not about effects on mortality,
20	And that's actually right, you know.	20	hospitalizations and the like. And so I think
21	That's why you need to look at access to	21	the fair question to ask them is what do they
22	medications. In addition, a lot of the other	22	think of moving from 92 to 88 percent actuarial

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value. And I thought the important answer is	1	sometimes gone by. It's one of these agencies
to analyze the railroad population data and	2	no one's ever heard of. They actually do a lot
look in the data, and I don't think anyone can	3	of work on quality of care, and they publish
disagree with the value of doing that.	4	metrics that can be used. And they literally -
BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: I will be	5	- the data that come to a claim's provider are
asking them the same question. Thank you.	6	things like what was the primary reason for
CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: I have a number from	7	this hospitalization and what were the co-
my education, Dr. Goldman, if I may. The first	8	morbid conditions? And so, for example, you
question is you describe preventable	9	can see someone had been coded in the data as
hospitalization and gave us one example.	10	having asthma, because they were seeing a
Someone who suffered from asthma, had	11	doctor for example in primary care, and
particular health effects that led that person	12	suddenly the primary reason for an inpatient
to go to the hospital for treatment, and who	13	hospitalization is listed as asthma.
had not been taking the medication that might	14	Now this is a very so we followed
have potentially prevented that need.	15	what HRQ did in that analysis of PEB 243.
And the first question I have is how did	16	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: So it was a gross
you go about looking at the railroad plan	17	assumption based on the particular condition?
experience and determining the particular	18	If you had a thousand members who showed up at
hospitalizations were "preventable" as opposed	19	the hospital complaining of issues breathing
to those that weren't?	20	related to asthma, the AHRQ data would say that
DR. GOLDMAN: Yeah. So the Agency for	21	22.6 percent of them were preventable, and
Healthcare Research and Quality, HRQ, is	22	that's the way you utilized it for your
Page 628		Page 629
analysis, question mark?	1	DR. GOLDMAN: Yes.
DR. GOLDMAN: Well, they would say a	2	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: And the same thing

DR. GOLDMAN: Well, they would say a
hundred percent are preventable in their view,
and then let's look at whether it changed
through the benefit design. They're not saying

each hospitalization was clinically necessary, you need to go into the medical record. CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Absolutely. DR. GOLDMAN: But these are proxies, so

-- I mean, they're not -- to really decide if

you're correct. CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: That's what I was trying to get a handle on. DR. GOLDMAN: Yes. CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: And so the assumption is that if somebody who has failed to properly take medication who also gets lumped with those who don't, because you don't go into the patient records, that patient as a

result of having to pay more for a hospital

visit will not go to the ER even though they're

CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: And the same thing
with heart conditions or any of the other
things you looked at?
DR. GOLDMAN: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: And on slide thirty-
one, I'm not sure if there's typo or I just
missed the number. With respect to the extreme
right-hand column, can you explain the point
one one and then the one one-thousandth, which
does look like a very significant difference.
DR. GOLDMAN: Yeah. So these are not
statistically significant. And part of the
problem with this work is once you start
segmenting on very small populations, so in
this case they had to have hypertension or
ischemic heart disease, then hospitalization
for heart failure is very infrequent, so I
would not read into those changes. The key
point is they are not statistically significant
and that we don't see an increase.
So another way to say it is when we look

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having difficulty breathing?

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1	in these employer sponsored plans, and as I	1	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Unless they're at
2	said, some of them are less generous than	2	the morgue. I mean
3	others, so we have a broader range of	3	DR. GOLDMAN: Actually, so what I would
4	variation, you don't see that the rate of	4	argue is these data show me that the rate of
5	hospitalization for heart failure among people	5	hospitalization for heart failure is flat
6	with hypertension or ischemic heart disease is	6	within that range. And, you know, we are
7	changing with cost sharing in that range.	7	looking there are predictions that come out
8	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Because there's a	8	of a model, but I'd be very careful about
9	small number of people that suffer that	9	drawing inferences when they're not
10	particular condition?	10	statistically significant. I think the broader
11	DR. GOLDMAN: That's part of it, yes.	11	point is that, you know, when you have small
12	So that's why we have to that's what I	12	samples, you get noise.
13	prefer rates like risk adjusted	13	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: I understand. And
14	hospitalizations.	14	last area of inquiry. You used as an analogy
15	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: So why would the	15	incrementally going from 0 to 100 right away
16	number go down, it's not a small number, a	16	versus incremental. And my question is: If
17	thousand-fold, if you're talking about people	17	you're determining at what point plan design
18	with heart failure? You would think that	18	changes affect adversely health outcome, even
19	people with heart failure. Whether there was a	19	if you do it gradually, I would assume there's
20	high copay or a low copay, a high deductible or	20	some point at which it affects health outcome.
21	low deductible would wind up at the hospital.	21	If you go to a hundred as opposed to 30 to 40
22	DR. GOLDMAN: Yes, you would.	22	in 10 jumps, ultimately you're still at a
		1	

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the morgue. I mean
DR. GOLDMAN: Actually, so what I would
argue is these data show me that the rate of
hospitalization for heart failure is flat
within that range. And, you know, we are
looking there are predictions that come out
of a model, but I'd be very careful about
drawing inferences when they're not
statistically significant. I think the broader
point is that, you know, when you have small
samples, you get noise.
CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: I understand. And
last area of inquiry. You used as an analogy
incrementally going from 0 to 100 right away
versus incremental. And my question is: If
you're determining at what point plan design
changes affect adversely health outcome, even
if you do it gradually, I would assume there's
some point at which it affects health outcome.
If you go to a hundred as opposed to 30 to 40
in 10 jumps, ultimately you're still at a

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Page 633 1 hundred. 1 Kaiser, what does Kaiser do? Kaiser is a free 2 And so my question is: Are you 2 plan. It's a very low copayment. But Kaiser 3 3 indicating that there is any breakpoint as it won't give you access to certain services. 4 were with respect to health plan design that 4 They've substituted administrative controls to 5 does have demonstrated adverse health affect or 5 control use for copays. 6 is the argument the burdens on the other side 6 So the issue is how do you do that in a 7 7 of that question that you've got to -- if you're not going to go to a managed plan 8 affirmatively show it rather than affirmatively 8 where you're absolutely going to manage care. 9 show it's not happening. 9 And I think the answer to that is something in 10 DR. GOLDMAN: No. I'm putting on my 10 the range of 70 to 80 percent actuarial value 11 health -- I was advisor to the Congressional 11 combined with exceptions for things we know 12 Budget Office when we discussed issues like 12 work. And this gets back to the literature 13 benefit design around Medicare Part D, and 13 that people have been writing. 14 around single-payer systems and the like. And 14 Drugs for chronic illness, which my most 15 what I'll say is my reading of the literature 15 cited paper is on this topic. It makes no 16 is that it is very important to have an out-of-16 sense to have high copayments on anti-diabetes 17 pocket cap. The actuarial value of those 17 medications, anti-hypertensives and the like, 18 catastrophic caps are probably in the range of 18 because they can save money down the road. But 19 65 to 70 percent. But you also want to carve 19 that doesn't mean that you can't have cost 20 out exceptions for high value services. And 20 sharing on a lot of services and a lot in the mistake we've made is we've said, yeah, you 21 21 healthcare where there's -- the evidence is 22 can get -- and, in fact, if you think about 22 very mixed on clinical benefit quite frankly.

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1	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Thank you, Dr. Goldman. My	1	Because again, we're not asking this board to
2	board members good as well? Thank you, sir.	2	address the merits of crew size, but simply to
3	DR. GOLDMAN: Thank you.	3	provide a process for getting to a final
4	MR. MUNRO: Mr. Chairman, with the	4	resolution.
5	Board's permission, I'd like to move on to your	5	So for my part, this is a short summary
6	next topic, which is the alternative wage	6	of what I'd like to cover. And the bulk of
7	proposal. And for reasons I will explain,	7	this is grounded in legal and procedural
8	despite the label, this is really about finding	8	debates, which is why I am tasked with
9	a process to resolve the party's disagreement	9	addressing it and because I've been buried in
10	over crew size. And if you will recall from	10	this issue for years now.
11	our earlier presentations, crew size is a	11	The first part of this concerns the
12	shorthand way of referring to this debate about	12	procedural objections by the Unions to this
13	conductor redeployment, moving them from the	13	board's consideration. And I'll explain why
14	locomotive cab to the ground where their work	14	those objections aren't valid.
15	actually occurs. And we plan to present this	15	Second, I'll cover what past boards have
16	in two parts.	16	done with this question, including most notably
17	First, I will explain how and why the	17	the president of PEB 219, which recommended a
18	board can address this issue. Why it has the	18	process that both accommodates local handling
19	power to do so and the precedent that shows the	19	concerns and provides that process for final
20	proper way to proceed. Second, Mr. Branon will	20	resolution.
21	discuss why the board should address this	21	Third, I'll touch on what this board
22	issue, why the Carriers need a path forward.	22	needs to do to ensure that the existing local
		1	

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	rage 050		rage 057
1	process will continue. And then finally, I'll	1	you, there is an obvious link between crew size
2	mention the impending FRA notice of proposed	2	and other issues such as wages. But in an
3	rulemaking on crew size and explain why this	3	effort to avoid another round of litigation on
4	board doesn't need to worry about it.	4	this point, the Carriers filed two different
5	All right. Now on the first of these	5	sets of Section 6 notices at the outset of this
6	points on the procedural objections, the main	6	round. And those are summarized here on this
7	ones that Smart TD raises concerns this	7	slide.
8	distinction between local and national	8	The local notices were served by
9	handling. And at the risk of grossly	9	individual Carriers on Smart TD and the general
10	oversimplifying, you know, 60 years of	10	committees. Those remain pending. They are
11	litigation, the core issue is whether crew size	11	not before you. And I'll get to how they play
12	is an exclusively local issue. The Union	12	into this in just a minute.
13	asserts that it can only be discussed at the	13	The national notice, which is on the
14	Carrier level, and they've resisted overtures	14	right-hand of this slide invited the Union to
15	to negotiate a national handling. This is one	15	discuss national handling to discuss crew
16	of famous cases, Atlantic Coastline, that first	16	size in national handling but noted that we
17	addressed this question.	17	were not insisting on that.
18	Now, the Carriers disagree with the	18	It also says, however, that if the Union
19	Unions on this point. We think that crew size	19	declines to discuss it, we have what we refer
20	can be productively discussed at the national	20	to as this alternative wage proposal, which is
21	level, and we think that in a general wage or	21	up here on the slide. But in essence what it
22	rules movement, which is what you have before	22	says is that if in the absence of crew size

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1	change a train is required to operate with more	1
2	than the necessary causes, that the	2
3	compensation for that train crew would be	3
4	reduced. And it is this alternative wage	4
5	proposal that provides the foundation for this	5
6	board to make a recommendation.	6
7	How is that so? Well, the lead	7
8	precedent on this point was established by PEB	8
9	219. And as this excerpt shows, 219 had the	9
10	same kind of issue before it with the same sort	10
11	of underlying debate about crew size. Except	11
12	in that case it was about the brakemen rather	12
13	than about the conductor. And so what that	13
14	board said was, look, we recognize that this is	14
15	a local issue, that crew size as such is not	15
16	appropriately before us. But, it said, we also	16
17	recognize that this is a problem that needs a	17
18	solution. So in lieu of making a wage	18
19	recommendation on this topic, we will address	19
20	it in a fashion that is consistent with local	20
21	handling.	21
22	Now the irony is that in their	22

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	-
1	wage proposal approach is ideal. We would
2	prefer to just cut to the chase and negotiate
3	over crew size wherever it makes sense to do
4	so, wherever we can get a mutually acceptable
5	solution. But the way the law is developed,
6	this is the path that we have. So it's now
7	settled that this approach gives the board a
8	basis to address the process if not the
9	substance. Now this slide addresses the other
10	procedural objection that concerns the notion
11	that changes in crew size were barred by
12	moratoriums and local agreements, which
13	generally limit the right to serve proposals on
14	certain subjects. Now, this was mostly
15	resolved by the 2021 LaRocco awards, which
16	established that the so-called standard or
17	RFMP-type moratoriums are not a bar to the
18	Carriers' proposals.
19	So this for the most part resolved that
20	objection. But even the moratoriums that were
21	not before Mr. LaRocco are not a bar. The UTU
22	made the same pitch to 219, saying that the

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submission, the Union at Page 12 cites this
same section of the 219 report, but they omit
the highlighted language there, the sentence
that begins however in which the PEB
established that it can address this issue.
This rational that an alternative wage proposal
can be legitimately addressed in national
handling has been subsequently validated by the
courts. And the authority for that is
summarized in our submission at Pages 9 through
10.
In fact, a court has held that this
proposal, the one that is pending in this case
is properly in national handling. In fact,
there is a court order requiring Smart TD to
bargain in national handling over that
proposal. Now, they'll tell you that that
order was set aside, but they are mistaken.
The appeal set aside a different issue. This
portion of the court's order was affirmed on
remand, and it remains in place.
Look, no one says that this alternative

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board should not address this issue because of
local moratoriums. And the board said, no,
we're going to proceed anyway. And its
conclusion in that regard was upheld in a
subsequent special board and court proceedings.
So that should dispose of the procedural
objections and confirm that this board has the
power, has the authority to make a
recommendation in response to the national
alternative wage proposal.
So that brings me to the second
question, then, which is if this board can
address it, how should it do so? And the
answer is again found in the report of the last
PEB to address this, which was PEB 219.
Now I've put on this slide a summary of
what PEB 219 said. And again, it's notable
that it didn't address the merits of the crew
size question. It didn't say, we recommend
that crew size reductions be made in this
particular way or on this particular schedule
or with these quid pro quos. It didn't say any

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1	of that. What it said was we recommend a	1	about operational plans, about compensation or
2	process, and it's a two-part process. First it	2	whatever. And the details get worked out in
3	says, go negotiate locally. Exactly what the	3	that forum. And the arbitrator could even say
4	Union wants to do. Second, if that doesn't	4	no. I mean, for that particular train run or
5	work, either party can invoke binding interest	5	on that particular property, you can't make
6	arbitration.	6	this reduction or at least not yet. But the
7	Now it's I think notable that 219 did	7	important thing is that it creates this
8	not come up with this idea, this two-step	8	process, a way to get an answer, a resolution
9	process on its own. There had been a series of	9	one way or another. And as Brendon will
10	earlier decisions summarized on this slide	10	explain, that's what we need, a way to address
11	going back to the Presidential Railroad	11	this with finality.
12	Commission in 1962 recommending similar	12	Now, as I mentioned at the outset, the
13	processes.	13	Carriers in this round are proceeding on a dual
14	Now the genius of this particular	14	track. There is a national notice with the
15	approach is that it provides a universal	15	alternative wage proposal, which as I said
16	solution to an industry-wide problem, but in a	16	provided this is board's authority to act, but
17	way that is fully consistent with the	17	there's also the local notices where each
18	principles of local handling that the Union	18	Carrier is bargaining for its own agreement on
19	values. It allows for a granular assessment at	19	crew size. And the Carriers local notices are
20	the local level. The arbitrator, if it gets to	20	not before this board. They have separate
21	arbitration, can look at the parties' specific	21	mediation dockets. They remain in mediation.
22	arguments in a particular context about safety,	22	As Brendon explained that the parties are

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	rage 011		rage 045
1	continuing to meet. Those are active	1	Finally, I'll just briefly note that it
2	negotiations. And the Union appears to concede	2	appears FRA is going to address crew size in
3	that those negotiations are proper. In fact,	3	its latest notice of proposed rulemaking, which
4	they argue strenuously in their submission that	4	may come out later this week. Now, the
5	the crew size issue can only be addressed	5	Carriers' position is that FRA doesn't have any
6	locally. And they cite it is "currently being	6	empirical or legal basis for addressing crew
7	handled on a local level."	7	size. Last time it did so, it ended up
8	So apparently we agree that the process	8	withdrawing that. It may be challenged again,
9	can continue there. But to ensure that	9	but that's really a debate for a different
10	happens, the board needs to specifically	10	forum.
11	recommend that settlement of the national round	11	For present purposes, this board doesn't
12	will not impinge upon that local process	12	need to worry one way or the other about what
13	through a moratorium of the kind you see here	13	the FRA does, because the NPRM will simply
14	on the slide.	14	settle what happens from the Government agency
15	So while the best course is to recommend	15	perspective. And we are here to determine what
16	that the local process continue with the	16	can happen from a labor contract perspective.
17	binding arbitration backstop, the board should	17	And there's no real link between the two. You
18	also expressly provide for the sort of language	18	could have a rule that allows crew size
19	that is found in the Carriers' July 11th	19	reduction and a contract that prohibits it or
20	proposal at Section 4.1 to make sure that the	20	vice versa. And as we understand what the NPRM
21	end of this process does not also end that	21	will say, it will allow for single person
22	process.	22	operations in at least some circumstances. And

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1	so the contract question will need to be	1	further. I just wanted your view.
2	decided either way. So that's how the board	2	BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: Let me just
3	can address this issue and how it should do so.	3	follow-up with that.
4	And so unless the board has any	4	Would you say that the binding
5	questions, I will turn the mic over to Brendon	5	arbitration option is in lieu of or in addition
6	to explain why the board should do so.	6	to your alternative wage proposal if there's no
7	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Thank you, Mr.	7	agreement at the local level?
8	Munro. I have just one.	8	MR. MUNRO: Let me let me see if I
9	MR. MUNRO: Yes, sir.	9	BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: Is my question
10	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: You've expressed a	10	clear or should I try and rephrase it?
11	couple of different asks to us over the past	11	MR. MUNRO: If you could try it one more
12	few minutes. And my question is: If nothing	12	time.
13	is said about the process other than	13	BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: So if we say as
14	potentially what we're not doing here has no	14	everyone seems to agree we should say is this
15	preemptive effect on local handling of the	15	should be dealt with on the local level
16	matter, is there still an arbitration backstop	16	MR. MUNRO: Yes.
17	anyway? What happens if the parties don't	17	BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: I kind of
18	agree locally?	18	hear you saying two things. One, that we
19	MR. MUNRO: We likely end up before	19	should say, and if it doesn't work, either
20	another Presidential Emergency Board.	20	party can request binding arbitration.
21	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Okay. That was	21	MR. MUNRO: Yes.
22	fair enough. I'm not going to comment any	22	BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: But I also hear
	Page 648	1	Page 649

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1	you saying, and if it doesn't work, then there	1
2	are going to be these wage consequences.	2
3	MR. MUNRO: No. If what our proposal	3
4	is that you simply say, go negotiate it	4
5	locally. And if it doesn't work, take it to	5
6	binding interest arbitration. We're not asking	6
7	this board or any other board to actually	7
8	reduce wages. We simply want this process.	8
9	The reason we're making this through the	9
10	alternative wage proposal is because that's	10
11	what we're required to do by the way the law	11
12	has developed on this question.	12
13	BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: Okay. Thank	13
14	you.	14
15	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: You good? I'm good	15
16	as well. Thank you, Mr. Munro.	16
17	MR. MUNRO: Thank you.	17
18	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: May I ask just from	18
19	a process end? May I simply instruct Mr.	19
20	Branon, he's still under oath having been sworn	20
21	in earlier in the proceeding or do you want us	21
22	to use an operating ground rule that we	22

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essentially it's good for the day and we do it
again if it's another day?
MR. MUNRO: I think Mr. Branon would
understand that he's still under oath.
MR. BRANON: Indeed.
CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: That's fine. And
I'm getting the head nod. It's fine from the
organization's end, too. That's great. We're
good. We just remind you're under oath, sir.
THEREUPON:
BRENDAN BRANON
was called for examination, and, having been
previously duly sworn, testified as follows:
MR. BRANON: Absolutely. And good
morning Board Members. Good morning,
everybody. I just want to pick up on one point
that Don ended in response to questions from
the board, and that is specifically sort of
what happens next in the absence of a process
agreement. And whether we ended up back before
another PEB or not, I think, would very much to
be determined, I'd just like to stress in any

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1	scenario, it is absolutely the Carriers on an	1	service and PTC territory. The model that the
2	individual basis their desire to reach	2	Carriers are proposing is one that is safe,
3	agreement. If we want to work together with	3	it's more efficient, and will lead to higher
4	Smart TD to find a pathway forward to reach a	4	quality of life jobs and improvements for our
5	new operating model for how the conductors and	5	employees. And importantly, with the model
6	through freight territory are deployed, that's	6	that the Carriers are proposing, we provide for
7	the absolute objective. And we see that	7	employment protection for conductors in the
8	opportunity. And for the reasons that I'll	8	long-term vitality of the craft represented by
9	discuss in my presentation today, we think that	9	Smart TD.
10	the time is now to start that process and to	10	So Don spoke specifically about some of
11	find a way to do that.	11	the process issues and the framing of the
12	So as you've heard, this is a	12	Carriers' proposal. I'll get into some more
13	significant issue. I won't intend to belabor	13	depth about specifically what the proposals
14	the importance in that respect in an overall	14	are. As you've heard, in PTC territory, which
15	prospective. But because the industry, and as	15	is the considerable majority of Carrier
16	you heard from Mr. Fritz yesterday, the	16	operations, but less dealt with the total
17	industry feels the time is now to modernize.	17	territory, because PTC, the way it's been
18	How the conductor role is deployed and through	18	mandated, designed, and deployed applies
19	freight service. And the key point here is	19	primarily to the areas where there's higher
20	that with PTC and the development of other	20	traffic. So there are spur lines and other
21	technologies, we're prepared to do this. And	21	areas of Carrier territory that are non-PTC.
22	through freight territory through freight	22	And in those territories, the Carriers'
		1	

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1	proposal to Smart TD does not extend to those	1	envisioned and deployed is best left to the
2	operations.	2	parties. So as Don mentioned, what we are
3	We seek to deploy redeploy, rather,	3	proposing is a process. And as Don took us
4	conductors in these through freight trains.	4	through, this is the same sort of process that
5	These are the trains that operate between	5	has been repeatedly recommended by prior
6	terminals from A to B, if you will, and have	6	boards.
7	the conductor's position on the ground and	7	So turning to the bargaining that has
8	provide planned and unplanned service. That is	8	actually already occurred so far in this
9	the core part of the ground service aspect of	9	bargaining round. As is represented on this
10	their role.	10	slide, there's been thirty-five separate
11	And importantly, unlike in prior rounds	11	negotiating sessions on this topic so far in
12	of crew concepts that the industry has	12	this round. Twenty since last September
13	experienced over many decades, this is not	13	following the resolution of the procedural
14	about just simply eliminating the role, okay.	14	objections that took about two years to fully
15	This is about changing how the work gets done.	15	resolve f. m the outset of the bargaining
16	And we're going to need many of these roles.	16	round. These meetings have been detailed.
17	And as I've mentioned, they're going to be	17	They've been lengthy discussions, very
18	great jobs with the great pay and benefits that	18	significant exchanges on the topic, and these
19	we provide, along with higher quality of life	19	are all now each progressing further in
20	aspects of the role. But we're not asking the	20	mediation. There's a robust bargaining record
21	board to delve into the specific details. The	21	that's been developed, including multiple
22	specific details as to how this model is	22	exchanges from the Carriers to the Smart TD

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1	representatives about how this redeployment	1	networks. This is the technological platform
2	could occur.	2	that allows the industry to rethink how we
3	And successively in response to the	3	deploy conductors and how we perform ground
4	issues and the questions and the concerns that	4	service and through freight territory.
5	have been raised, the Carriers have provided	5	In this advancement, along with the
6	further proposed frameworks as to how to	6	advancement of other technologies that we'll
7	address this. This is the bargaining record	7	discuss in a little bit, it just changes how we
8	that the Carriers would envision taking forward	8	communicate in the railroad, how we interact,
9	in the process that we propose that this board	9	and it has supplanted the conductor's in-cab
10	recommend.	10	functions. So what is depicted on this slide?
11	So turning to PTC. And we heard Mr.	11	Well, the conductor does not control the
12	Fritz describe this briefly. I thought it may	12	locomotive as we all know. There's only one
13	be helpful to provide the board with this is	13	full set of controls, and that's the engineer's
14	a short, one-minute video that depicts and	14	job is to control the locomotive.
15	describes exactly how the PTC system works. So	15	And instead, as is reflected here on the
16	hopefully this will play.	16	slide, the conductor historically has served
17	(Video clip played.)	17	two primary onboard functions in the cab of a
18	MR. BRANON: It's a new world now. Many	18	locomotive. One is as a recorder. The other
19	years and billions of dollars in investment	19	is as an observer. And so what do we mean by
20	later, we have the most advanced locomotive	20	that exactly?
21	safety and control system fully deployed and	21	Well, the recording function includes
22	implemented and interoperable across our	22	the receipt of radio instructions from
	Page 656		Page 657
1	Page 656 dispatcher to monitoring of signal indications	1	Page 657 conductor's role, and how and where conductors
1 2		1 2	
	dispatcher to monitoring of signal indications		conductor's role, and how and where conductors
2	dispatcher to monitoring of signal indications and track authorities receiving alerts and	2	conductor's role, and how and where conductors will be deployed, because their remaining
2 3	dispatcher to monitoring of signal indications and track authorities receiving alerts and advising the engineer of such.	2 3	conductor's role, and how and where conductors will be deployed, because their remaining principle duties will all occur outside the cab
2 3 4	dispatcher to monitoring of signal indications and track authorities receiving alerts and advising the engineer of such. But these functions are now incorporated	2 3 4	conductor's role, and how and where conductors will be deployed, because their remaining principle duties will all occur outside the cab of a locomotive. And as is depicted here, what
2 3 4 5	dispatcher to monitoring of signal indications and track authorities receiving alerts and advising the engineer of such. But these functions are now incorporated into onboard technology in the cab of a	2 3 4 5	conductor's role, and how and where conductors will be deployed, because their remaining principle duties will all occur outside the cab of a locomotive. And as is depicted here, what do those include? Well, typically, things such
2 3 4 5 6	dispatcher to monitoring of signal indications and track authorities receiving alerts and advising the engineer of such. But these functions are now incorporated into onboard technology in the cab of a locomotive, whether that's through PTC or other	2 3 4 5 6	conductor's role, and how and where conductors will be deployed, because their remaining principle duties will all occur outside the cab of a locomotive. And as is depicted here, what do those include? Well, typically, things such as throwing switches, inspecting cars,
2 3 4 5 6 7	dispatcher to monitoring of signal indications and track authorities receiving alerts and advising the engineer of such. But these functions are now incorporated into onboard technology in the cab of a locomotive, whether that's through PTC or other means. So the direct management and receipt of	2 3 4 5 6 7	conductor's role, and how and where conductors will be deployed, because their remaining principle duties will all occur outside the cab of a locomotive. And as is depicted here, what do those include? Well, typically, things such as throwing switches, inspecting cars, replacing knuckles, coupling brake hoses, doing
2 3 4 5 7 8	dispatcher to monitoring of signal indications and track authorities receiving alerts and advising the engineer of such. But these functions are now incorporated into onboard technology in the cab of a locomotive, whether that's through PTC or other means. So the direct management and receipt of all of those communications go directly to the	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	conductor's role, and how and where conductors will be deployed, because their remaining principle duties will all occur outside the cab of a locomotive. And as is depicted here, what do those include? Well, typically, things such as throwing switches, inspecting cars, replacing knuckles, coupling brake hoses, doing the day-to-day work of servicing trains and
2 4 5 7 8 9	dispatcher to monitoring of signal indications and track authorities receiving alerts and advising the engineer of such. But these functions are now incorporated into onboard technology in the cab of a locomotive, whether that's through PTC or other means. So the direct management and receipt of all of those communications go directly to the engineer.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	conductor's role, and how and where conductors will be deployed, because their remaining principle duties will all occur outside the cab of a locomotive. And as is depicted here, what do those include? Well, typically, things such as throwing switches, inspecting cars, replacing knuckles, coupling brake hoses, doing the day-to-day work of servicing trains and through freight territory.
2 4 5 7 8 9 10	dispatcher to monitoring of signal indications and track authorities receiving alerts and advising the engineer of such. But these functions are now incorporated into onboard technology in the cab of a locomotive, whether that's through PTC or other means. So the direct management and receipt of all of those communications go directly to the engineer. Now in terms of the observer role. PTC	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	conductor's role, and how and where conductors will be deployed, because their remaining principle duties will all occur outside the cab of a locomotive. And as is depicted here, what do those include? Well, typically, things such as throwing switches, inspecting cars, replacing knuckles, coupling brake hoses, doing the day-to-day work of servicing trains and through freight territory. And whether these are planned events or
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	dispatcher to monitoring of signal indications and track authorities receiving alerts and advising the engineer of such. But these functions are now incorporated into onboard technology in the cab of a locomotive, whether that's through PTC or other means. So the direct management and receipt of all of those communications go directly to the engineer. Now in terms of the observer role. PTC automatically stops the train, as we've seen,	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	conductor's role, and how and where conductors will be deployed, because their remaining principle duties will all occur outside the cab of a locomotive. And as is depicted here, what do those include? Well, typically, things such as throwing switches, inspecting cars, replacing knuckles, coupling brake hoses, doing the day-to-day work of servicing trains and through freight territory. And whether these are planned events or unplanned events, currently to perform these
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	dispatcher to monitoring of signal indications and track authorities receiving alerts and advising the engineer of such. But these functions are now incorporated into onboard technology in the cab of a locomotive, whether that's through PTC or other means. So the direct management and receipt of all of those communications go directly to the engineer. Now in terms of the observer role. PTC automatically stops the train, as we've seen, if and when it violates certain restrictions.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	conductor's role, and how and where conductors will be deployed, because their remaining principle duties will all occur outside the cab of a locomotive. And as is depicted here, what do those include? Well, typically, things such as throwing switches, inspecting cars, replacing knuckles, coupling brake hoses, doing the day-to-day work of servicing trains and through freight territory. And whether these are planned events or unplanned events, currently to perform these tasks the way that the industry is structured
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	dispatcher to monitoring of signal indications and track authorities receiving alerts and advising the engineer of such. But these functions are now incorporated into onboard technology in the cab of a locomotive, whether that's through PTC or other means. So the direct management and receipt of all of those communications go directly to the engineer. Now in terms of the observer role. PTC automatically stops the train, as we've seen, if and when it violates certain restrictions. That means the conductor's historic observer function, one that has frankly never been sufficient to stop a moving train at speed within a field of vision is redundant as the	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	conductor's role, and how and where conductors will be deployed, because their remaining principle duties will all occur outside the cab of a locomotive. And as is depicted here, what do those include? Well, typically, things such as throwing switches, inspecting cars, replacing knuckles, coupling brake hoses, doing the day-to-day work of servicing trains and through freight territory. And whether these are planned events or unplanned events, currently to perform these tasks the way that the industry is structured right now, the conductor has to exit the cab of a locomotive and walk to wherever the need of the service of the train is. Now that may be in somewhat close proximity to the locomotive,
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	dispatcher to monitoring of signal indications and track authorities receiving alerts and advising the engineer of such. But these functions are now incorporated into onboard technology in the cab of a locomotive, whether that's through PTC or other means. So the direct management and receipt of all of those communications go directly to the engineer. Now in terms of the observer role. PTC automatically stops the train, as we've seen, if and when it violates certain restrictions. That means the conductor's historic observer function, one that has frankly never been sufficient to stop a moving train at speed within a field of vision is redundant as the collisions and accidents that used to occur in the situations at PTC will now prevent often	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	conductor's role, and how and where conductors will be deployed, because their remaining principle duties will all occur outside the cab of a locomotive. And as is depicted here, what do those include? Well, typically, things such as throwing switches, inspecting cars, replacing knuckles, coupling brake hoses, doing the day-to-day work of servicing trains and through freight territory. And whether these are planned events or unplanned events, currently to perform these tasks the way that the industry is structured right now, the conductor has to exit the cab of a locomotive and walk to wherever the need of the service of the train is. Now that may be in somewhat close proximity to the locomotive, or it may be in the middle, or it may be in the rear of the train. That could mean walking on
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	dispatcher to monitoring of signal indications and track authorities receiving alerts and advising the engineer of such. But these functions are now incorporated into onboard technology in the cab of a locomotive, whether that's through PTC or other means. So the direct management and receipt of all of those communications go directly to the engineer. Now in terms of the observer role. PTC automatically stops the train, as we've seen, if and when it violates certain restrictions. That means the conductor's historic observer function, one that has frankly never been sufficient to stop a moving train at speed within a field of vision is redundant as the collisions and accidents that used to occur in the situations at PTC will now prevent often unfortunately typically the result of human	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	conductor's role, and how and where conductors will be deployed, because their remaining principle duties will all occur outside the cab of a locomotive. And as is depicted here, what do those include? Well, typically, things such as throwing switches, inspecting cars, replacing knuckles, coupling brake hoses, doing the day-to-day work of servicing trains and through freight territory. And whether these are planned events or unplanned events, currently to perform these tasks the way that the industry is structured right now, the conductor has to exit the cab of a locomotive and walk to wherever the need of the service of the train is. Now that may be in somewhat close proximity to the locomotive, or it may be in the middle, or it may be in the rear of the train. That could mean walking on unsteady balance or unsteady ballast,

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	2	1	2
1	unplanned service are, which often just leads	1	a terminal or other location or be in a roving
2	to a need for a further railroad employee to	2	capacity in a truck assigned of reporting
3	report if the conductor doesn't have the	3	directly to planned events and assisting with
4	appropriate tools or the appropriate ability to	4	unplanned events directly to the location of
5	fix whatever the issue is, or even if it's a	5	the train where the service is needed.
6	planned event to uncouple the cars and, you	6	And the data that the Carriers have all
7	know, reattach brake hoses, etc.	7	demonstrated is that that need to report to
8	This is not the best way to run the	8	unplanned events is quite sporadic. The
9	railroad of the future. The Carriers have been	9	railroads, the level of their operations have
10	planning for this future. Each Carrier has	10	gotten to the point where we tend to know most
11	developed detailed plans tailored to its system	11	frequently where unplanned events occur,
12	and network for a better model of railroad	12	whether that's at grade as trains may separate
13	operations. And each of those plans calls for	13	and knuckles need to be replaced or otherwise.
14	the conductor and through freight territory	14	The level of unplanned activity versus
15	and through freight operations and PTC	15	planned activity is actually quite low. That
16	territory to be redeployed from the cab. And	16	gives us confidence that this model will allow
17	depending upon the specific territory and the	17	us to continue to operate high quality
18	needs of the operation, the ground-based	18	operations.
19	conductor may be placed at the specific	19	Now, and importantly, these ground-based
20	location to handle planned events maybe such as	20	conductor roles will have regular shifts with
21	a customer facility for the frequent service	21	regular days off and perform their functions
22	events, or the conductor could be deployed from	22	each day, and then typically go home to their
		1	

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	2		2
1	families.	1	has been assessing issues has effectively
2	So we've talked about safety as well.	2	rejected these arguments. And the record has
3	From an overall prospective you heard from Mr.	3	established throughout this entire period that
4	Fritz yesterday. The railroads are safer today	4	the railroads have only continually gotten
5	than we've ever been historically. And	5	safer. We believe that this board should not
6	relentless focus and march of safety	6	similarly credit those claims here.
7	improvements in this industry will not cease.	7	Second, the FRA has previously found no
8	But we will likely hear that the	8	factual evidence to support a prohibition
9	Carriers' proposed redeployment of the	9	against one-person crew operations. Similarly,
10	conductor, this could never possibly be safe.	10	as is reflected in this quote here, the NTSB
11	And for three reasons, this is not the case.	11	has stated that there's insufficient data to
12	And we do not believe that the board should be	12	demonstrate that accidents are avoided by
13	swayed in its view based on these claims.	13	having a second qualified person in the cab.
14	Okay. First, this type of argument has	14	As Don mentioned, we understand there's
15	been made in every round of crew size reform	15	a pending notice for a new proposed rulemaking
16	for more than 60 years, whether it be the	16	from the FRA. We haven't seen the specifics of
17	brakemen, the firemen, the elimination of the	17	that, but we do not believe or understand that
18	caboose, we are told that we cannot possibly	18	it's going to prohibit single-person crew
19	change how we operate or reduce the number of	19	operations. And whether that's challenged and
20	onboard crews without jeopardizing safety.	20	whether it's eventually withdrawn or goes into
21	Now each of the prior commissions and	21	effect is very much to be determined. But in
22	boards who has considered those claims as it	22	any event, as Don mentioned, it's a separate
		1	

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1	issue what the regulatory body does with this	1	safely operated for decades with a single
2	at this point.	2	engineer in the cab of a locomotive and a
3	So third, and critically, single-person	3	conductor deployed from the ground to provide
4	crew operations have been in broad use	4	the ground service that the train needs.
5	throughout the world, especially in passenger	5	The safety data and experience from
6	and freight rail operations in Europe for	6	these operations all bear out that single
7	decades. Taking the safety data from those	7	person crew operations are and can be safely
8	operations contained in the detailed analysis	8	implemented and performed. So evolving the
9	from the Oliver Wyman firm that we provided in	9	ground service model and redeploying the
10	our appendix materials demonstrate that	10	conductor, it'll no doubt require changes.
11	European single-crew operations are just as	11	There's no question about that. There are many
12	safe, if not safer than their two-person crew	12	issues that have been discussed and addressed
13	operations.	13	in negotiations in this round with the Smart TD
14	We also have real word, real life	14	representatives that I mentioned earlier. That
15	experience here in the United States, too, that	15	will need to be addressed. And we look forward
16	supports the same the safety of single-person	16	to working together with those representatives
17	crew operations in the cab of a locomotive. In	17	to fully design and implement the new operating
18	fact, much of the existing passenger rail in	18	model, but there's not a safety-based reason to
19	the U.S. is operated with a single engineer in	19	refrain from moving forward.
20	the cab of a locomotive. And right now there's	20	So we know it can be safe. We know it
21	certain Class III railroads, in particular the	21	can be efficient. And we know it will support
22	Indiana railroad as is depicted here that has	22	high quality operations. It's also employee

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1	friendly. More predictable schedules. This is	1	commit scope rights that doesn't exist today
2	a huge piece of the operating drafts issues and	2	for these ground-based roles to Smart TD,
3	proposals that have been raised in this	3	thereby ensuring the long-term vitality of the
4	bargaining round. Redeploying the conductor at	4	craft.
5	least with respect to Smart TD through ground-	5	So at this point Carriers have
6	based role provides exactly that.	6	implemented PTC, the respective route networks
7	Second, less time away from home.	7	of the three in particular where their active
8	Ground-based employees will go home at the end	8	mediation cases are depicted on this slide.
9	of their shifts like over shift-based railroad	9	It's interoperable as I mentioned between
10	workers, rather than tie up at a hotel at an	10	railroads. It's fully active on 56,000 route
11	away-from-home terminal. This is probably the	11	miles. And the Carriers are ready to move
12	single greatest enhancement to quality of life	12	forward and modernize the ground-service role.
13	for these position that we believe we could	13	And Don mentioned that I'd be addressing
14	offer.	14	the question of why. And especially why now?
15	Lastly, job protection. Each of the	15	Well, the time to modernize is now. Our
16	Carriers involved in these negotiations so far	16	biggest competitor, commercial trucking, is
17	has proposed significant labor protection	17	poised to benefit from a technological
18	commitments to attach to its proposal. That	18	revolution of its own. You heard Lance
19	would include commitments regarding furlough	19	yesterday describe Union Pacific's investment
20	for no furlough for employees due to the	20	in TuSimple, which is one of the more advanced
21	transition to engineer operations.	21	automated trucking companies that is proving
22	The Carriers' proposals would also	22	out this technology right now.

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22	But there's a principle in technology called	22	should include a binding process across the
21	evolution is probably a little bit further off.	21	Carriers believe the board's recommendation
20	two years and displace manned trucks. That	20	the future. And this in sum is why the
19	trucks are not going to proliferate in the next	19	position our industry to thrive for decades in
18	probably frankly all agree that self-driving	18	transition to this model so that we can
17	technology is advancing rapidly, we can	17	agree on an appropriate approach to how we
16	And while we all may recognize that the	16	Smart TD, chart the future of rail operations,
15	we do that?	15	We propose to work on this together with
14	effectively complete with trucks and how must	14	to 100 overnight.
13	competitive traffic. Where will we be able to	13	Dr. Goldman, we're not proposing to go from 0
12	real question is the jump ball work, the	12	happen overnight. To borrow a metaphor from
11	As we heard from Dr. McCullough yesterday, the	11	based conductors that we're proposing, it won't
10	to do that. But that's not really the point.	10	Carriers to act now. The transition to ground-
9	to to eliminate railroads. They're not going	9	exactly the sentiment that is driving the
8	and suggest that self-driving trucks are going	8	individuals, groups, Governments. That's
7	And I don't present this to fearmonger	7	lulled into inaction, whether that be
6	the country.	6	The consequences that we can all be
5	viability of this technology right now all over	5	long run. It's just human nature.
4	self-driving truck programs demonstrating the	4	also do is we underestimate its effect in the
3	they frankly appear all the time. There are	3	effect of technology in the short run, what we
2	month from the Wall Street Journal, you know,	2	while we tend at times to overestimate the
1	And so headlines like this just last	1	Amara's law. And what it stands for is that
	-		-

1	industry for negotiating this issue to a	1	Happy to take any further questions from
2	resolution.	2	the board.
3	And lastly, I'll just pick up on some of	3	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Thank you, Mr.
4	the points that Don raised. If the board	4	Branon. I think we're in good shape. Thank
5	doesn't recommend a process, the issue needs to	5	you very much.
6	remain open under the local Section 6 notices	6	MR. BRANON: Okay. Thank you.
7	that have been served in this bargaining round,	7	MR. MUNRO: Mr. Chairman, it's about
8	and that would be not prevented through a	8	9:15, and we are ready to transition to the
9	national moratorium.	9	final part of our case-in-chief, which concerns
10	As I mentioned, these negotiations have	10	work rules. My next two witnesses my next
11	been robust and they've not been released by	11	two speakers are sort of linked. They're going
12	the NMB, and those notices have not been	12	to introduce the work rule case on the whole.
13	referred to the court. This is exactly where	13	I anticipate it's going to take, you know,
14	Smart TD has insisted that these discussions	14	roughly 40 minutes or so, maybe forty-five,
15	take place.	15	which would take us to 10 o'clock or
16	We believe it would be unfair and	16	thereabouts.
17	inequitable for Smart TD to insist that these	17	So my question I guess is whether you
18	negotiations occur at a local level. And then	18	would like us to proceed or whether we need a
19	to seek the foreclosure of those notices	19	break at this point?
20	through the application of a national	20	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: We'll break after
21	moratorium coming out of these agreements	21	the next set. Thank you.
22	nationally.	22	MR. MUNRO: We will proceed. Thank you,

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		1	-
1	Mr. Chairman.	1	chief and address the parties' work rules
2	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: And if I could ask	2	proposed.
3	the reporter to please swear in the next two	3	During my brief remarks, I'm going to
4	witnesses. We can take them together as we did	4	focus on three topics. First, consistent with
5	yesterday, both sworn in, or were we going to	5	the approach taken in PEB 243, and other recent
6	take them sequentially, Mr. Munro?	6	boards, this board should dismiss the Union's
7	MR. MUNRO: They are going to be	7	work rules proposals due to common deficiencies
8	sequential. Also Mr. Birnbaum is my partner.	8	without the need to address their respective
9	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: I know. That's	9	individual merits.
10	fine. I'm okay with lawyers providing their	10	Second, even if the Unions can clear the
11	presentations without being sworn in, so that's	11	initial hurdles, the Unions have not
12	fine.	12	established the requisite compelling need for
13	MR. MUNRO: Thank you.	13	the changes they seek. Instead, as you'll hear
14	THEREUPON:	14	throughout our work rule presentation, many of
15	DAVID BIRNBAUM	15	changes will cause major operational problems.
16	was called for examination, and, testified	16	Third, the Carriers' three-prong
17	as follows:	17	proposal should be recommended because it's
18	MR. BIRNBAUM: Good morning, Mr.	18	narrowly tailored and reasonable, and as we
19	Chairman and Members of the Board.	19	will show, it's supported by compelling need.
20	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Morning.	20	The Unions' approach in work rules to
21	MR. BIRNBAUM: We're now going to start	21	this round is a familiar one. They're asking
22	the last main segment of the Carriers' case-in-	22	for too much and they're offering nothing in

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1	exchange. They did the same thing at PEB 243.	1
2	Consistent with other recent boards, PEB 243	2
3	did not recommend the Unions' proposals due to	3
4	the following common deficiencies.	4
5	The first is that the Unions did not	5
6	engage in sufficient time bargaining regarding	6
7	the proposals. The purpose of the PEB is to	7
8	try to finalize the collective bargaining	8
9	process, not to facilitate the beginning of it.	9
10	PEB 243 recognized as much and recommended	10
11	withdrawal of the Unions' proposals that were	11
12	not negotiated in a meaningful way.	12
13	Second, the proposals were two	13
14	expensive. There were too many and they cost	14
15	too much. The board found that bargaining	15
16	history dictates that such costly changes are	16
17	not warranted in the absence of specific plans	17
18	as to how to pay for them or what to give in	18
19	exchange for them, and that ties into the	19
20	second related point, which is that there was	20
21	no quid pro offered.	21
22	In PEB 243, the board went through great	22

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1	lengths to explain the normal give and take
2	process of collective bargaining and the
3	expectation that it would be followed when
4	proposals like these are advanced.
5	Finally, the proposals were not
6	sufficiently incremental. And while the board
7	noted that some proposals were measured, it
8	also found that many were too broadly crafted.
9	And for this slide I chose a quote from PEB 242
0	instead of 243, because I think the potential -
1	- I'm sorry the reference to potentially
2	destabilizing changes hits home when we look at
3	some of the Unions' proposals that are being
4	advanced in this round.
5	Although the Unions' attempt to get
6	major work rules changes failed, PEB 243 did
7	give the Unions a path forward for a potential
8	future outcome. It instructed the Unions to
9	generate a sufficient detailed bargaining
0	record to permit the matter to be more
1	appropriately addressed in future national
2	handling. But the Unions again have done just

19 (Pages 670 to 673)

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	Page 674		Page 675
1	the opposite.	1	be confused with meaningful collective
2	This is a slide that we've already seen,	2	bargaining. The NRLC's vice chairman, Jeff
3	and as it demonstrates, since serving Section 6	3	Rodgers will speak soon and add some color
4	notices almost three years ago, the Unions have	4	around the Unions lack of bargaining regarding
5	spent very little time addressing any of their	5	these key issues.
6	proposals.	6	As we can see here on this slide, even
7	Now, some of the Unions might want to	7	the Unions know that their scant bargaining
8	debate some of these time estimates. And	8	record on work rules won't fly. In their
9	although the Carriers stand by the accuracy of	9	submission the Union stated, and I quote,
10	these numbers, it doesn't matter whether it was	10	"perhaps most insulting is that as in our
11	zero minutes, or five minutes, or 15 minutes,	11	bargaining meetings, they are still requesting
12	or 30 minutes. That really isn't the point.	12	ambiguous contract language lacking any real
13	The point is that the Unions made no	13	substantive detail. The days of such high-
14	effort to engage in meaningful discussions	14	level bargaining are long gone and completely
15	about the proposals. They didn't share	15	inappropriate at this stage of the proceeding."
16	specific language. They didn't attempt to	16	While the Carriers have shown that the
17	address potential operational or financial	17	Unions' criticisms regarding the healthcare
18	hurdles, and there are many. And they didn't	18	negotiations are not accurate, the Unions'
19	sufficiently explain the justifications for	19	statements here perfectly capture this
20	their proposals.	20	bargaining round with respect to work rules.
21	Now let's be clear. Complaints to the	21	I'd like to now discuss the Carriers'
22	media and even complaints to the STB should not	22	second overarching objection to the Unions'
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1	work rules proposals, and that's that the	1	so? Because that's how collective bargaining
2	Unions are advancing too many proposals that	2	agreements are reached in real life. Many of
3	are too expensive. Many of the proposals you	3	the Carriers have agreed to some version of
4	see here, and this will be explained, just seek	4	some of the changes the Unions seek in this
5	more money for certain class in the form of	5	round, but they did it at the local level.
6	additional wages or allowances without	6	In virtually all cases, the changes came
7	providing anything in return. And as PE B 243	7	through arm's-length quid pro quo trades, and
8	demonstrated, when one craft is singled out for	8	only after protracted discussions accounting
9	additional compensation, there must be an	9	for the Carrier's operational needs and the
10	offset in GWIs or some other concession from	10	needs to provide outstanding service to our
11	that craft to pay for it. Otherwise, there's	11	customers.
12	inequitable treatment between the crafts. Yet,	12	Finally, the Carriers' fourth
13	the Unions have not even suggested how these	13	overarching objection is that the changes the
14	proposals should be funded.	14	Unions seek are not incremental. With respect
15	The Carriers' third overarching	15	to paid time off, the Unions want to add
16	objection is that despite these financial and	16	eighteen additional paid days off on top of
17	operational costs, the Unions offer nothing in	17	substantial allotment that employees already
18	return. That was true during the entire course	18	receive. For fifteen of these days, the so-
19	of bargaining, and that is true before the	19	called sick days, employees would have the
20	board.	20	ability to take the days off with little or no
21	But as the boards repeatedly recognize,	21	notice and without substantiating the medical
22	the quid pro quo is necessary. And why is that	22	need.

20 (Pages 674 to 677)

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	-		-	
1	In many respects, they're more like	1 With respect to meal and travel		
2	short notice or no notice vacation days than	2 allowances, they want to blow up the well-		
3	like sick days. And the Unions' own submission	3	settled framework that's been in place for	
4	recognizes that virtually no one else working	4	decades and the list goes on. These are not	
5	in the U.S. gets anywhere near fifteen sick	5	the types of proposals that are agreed to an	
6	days.	6	arm's-length negotiation under any	
7	With respect to attendance, the ops	7	circumstances, and certainly not without	
8	craft seek to abolish all policies and the	8	protracted bargaining and some give and take.	
9	Carriers' well-settled management prerogative	9	As this slide demonstrates, many of the	
10	to make and enforce reasonable policies and	10	Unions' proposals have been rejected by	
11	leave the Carriers with no way to require	11	multiple Presidential Emergency Boards in the	
12	employees to come to work until an agreement is	12	past. Many of the same topics, additional paid	
13	reached and ratified.	13	time off, meal and travel allowance, pay	
14	In other words, they want unlimited days	14 increases, scope of work changes, they've al		
15	off in the short term and a veto right over the	15	been evaluated and repeatedly rejected in	
16	Carriers' ability to run their business unless	16	recent rounds. And that's true in part because	
17	and until the Carriers capitulate and agree to	17	it's a function of the Presidential Emergency	
18	a policy of the Unions and the employee's	18	Board to narrow the issues to facilitate an	
19	choosing, if such a policy even exists. These	19	agreement.	
20	are precisely the types of overreaching and the	20	Although work rule issues can be	
21	stabilizing changes that boards have rejected	21	significant, an emergency board does not have	
22	in the past.	22	the time or resources to resolve a laundry list	
	Page 680		Page 681	
1	of high value and some issues that we'll see	1	off without substantiating the medical need	
2	are very, very complicated.	2	would impact the Carriers' operations.	
3	Given all these overarching deficiencies	3	As we already heard, the Unions'	
		1		

and well-settled precedence, the board can and should dismiss the Unions' proposals without the need to reach the merits. But if the board does consider the Unions' argument, I want to briefly walk through the reasons why the Unions have failed to meet their hefty burden of demonstrating a compelling need for these changes.

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I'll start by addressing the Unions' two all craft paid time off proposals, paid sick leave and holidays. In their joint submission, the Unions correctly point out that railroading is a 24/7, 365 operation. It's vital to the nation's economy and security.

Yet, the Unions spent little time discussing their \$688 million-dollar-per-year paid sick leave proposal and made no effort to consider how the proposal, which would allow every employee to take fifteen no notice days

1	off without substantiating the medical need
2	would impact the Carriers' operations.
3	As we already heard, the Unions'
4	arguments fail because the data demonstrates
5	that employees on average are not overworked.
6	As this slide demonstrates, rail employees on
7	average are working a similar amount, and
8	indeed a bit less than they have over the last
9	two decades.
10	And as you have heard and will hear,
11	railroad employees already have many options to
12	take a day off when they're sick, when they
13	have a doctor's appointment, or have some other
14	legitimate reason to miss work.
15	With respect to holidays, the Unions'
16	sole argument in its submission seems to be
17	that Martin Luther King Day, Juneteenth and
18	Veteran's Day are important holidays. And it
19	goes without saying that the Carriers agree.
20	And that's why during bargaining, the Carriers
21	offered on a one-to-one basis the opportunity
22	to swap holidays.

21 (Pages 678 to 681)

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1	The Unions did not take the Carriers up	1	want. And there's no attempt to explain how	
2	on that offer, and there's no compelling reason	2	these changes would impact the staffing	
3	for the Unions to add additional holidays on	3	complexities inherent to freight service.	
4	top of their already benchmark exceeding			
5	allotment, which PEB 243 recognized explicitly	ognized explicitly 5 was somewhat ironically		
6	in its decision.	6 Request Supported by the Fac		
7	The Unions similarly cannot demonstrate	nonstrate 7 made two arguments. The first is the		
8	a compelling need for the ^^ attendance	8	abolishing attendance policies will lead to	
9	proposal. And I would say that of all the	9	recruiting and retention success for the	
10	Unions' proposals, this one is the one that in	10	Carriers. And the second and somewhat more	
11	my view is the most overreaching.	11	startling argument is that the newfound success	
12	The Unions concede that for decades the	12	recruiting and retaining will have a "profound	
13	Carriers have enjoyed the management right to	13	positive impact on the country's supply chain."	
14	establish and enforce reasonable attendance	14	Well, first off, as you know the	
15	policies. And they're very transparent here	15	Carriers dispute the Unions' characterization	
16	about their intentions. They seek to strip	16	of these issues. And as Dr. Allen and Ms.	
17	this management right from the Carriers, to	17	Carter already explained, the railroads are	
18	abolish all attendance policies such that the	18	doing a far better job than other employers	
19	Carriers can't require employees to come to	19	recruiting and retaining in the face of the	
20	work, and refrain from putting a new policy in	20	great resignation.	
21	place unless it's what the Unions and a	21	We also learned at the STB hearings that	
22	majority of its ratification voting members	22	employment is up 13 percent since June 2020.	

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1	And, in general, there's just no evidence	1
2	whatsoever that recent attendance policies are	2
3	leading employees to quit the railroads at	3
4	rates that exceed the current labor market's	4
5	normal turn.	5
6	As the Carriers' witnesses will explain,	6
7	the Unions' arguments here misses the point	7
8	that unreliable attendance and not insufficient	8
9	headcount is the cause of many service	9
10	disruptions. And there's also no evidence that	10
11	abolishing attendance policies would somehow	11
12	solve the nation's supply chain issues. In the	12
13	absence of attendance policies, employees would	13
14	no longer have to come to work on weekends or	14
15	holidays, which would likely result in trains	15
16	not moving and widespread supply chain	16
17	disruptions. And so contrary to their	17
18	arguments, the Unions' attendance proposal	18
19	would make supply chain issues much worse, and	19
20	it certainly would not solve them. As Don said	20
21	in his opening, we must be careful to	21
22	distinguish the facts and the data from the raw	22

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emotion.	
The Unions also complained that ports,	
including the one that recently resolved the	
high dispute have consistently held that	
disputes over the terms of attendance policies	
are minor disputes. And the Unions argue that	
arbitrating the issue would take too long.	
They say it would take too long either due to	
lack of adequate NMB funding or due to "the	
Carriers and transients."	
What the Unions don't mention is that	
they haven't even filed a grievance challenging	
the reasonableness of the policy in the five	
months that have elapsed since the court's	
decision. This may be because their arguments	
that the Carriers' policies are not reasonable	
really in the context of other similar policies	
have repeatedly been rejected by some of the	
nation's most prominent and experienced labor	
arbitrators.	
The reason the Unions raise the issue	

22 (Pages 682 to 685)

here instead of pursuing it in arbitration is

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1	transparent. They don't want to try to carry	1	more meaningful discussions.
2	their burden of proving that a reasonable	2	The Carriers limited their ask to
3	policy is unreasonable. They'd rather ask this	3	twenty-three proposals, which was a little more
4	board to give them what they want. And the PEB	4	than one proposal for every ten work rules
5	should resist this inappropriate underground.	5	proposals that the Unions advanced. And as
6	The Unions also can't establish a	6	NRLC's vice-chairman, Jeff Rodgers, will
7	compelling need for their proposals that would	7	explain, the proposals were all tied together
8	provide extra compensation and allowances to	8	with a modifying theme. The need to modernize
9	employees, and that's because railroad	9	work rules to reflect the substantial
10	employees are already extremely well	10	improvements in technology and business
11	compensated. Dr. David's presentation	11	processes that have occurred over many decades.
12	confirmed as much. All of the crafts who are	12	Despite the great need for
13	seeking these so-called work rule changes that	13	modernization, the Carriers' have tempered
14	would result in extra compensation already	14	their ask and now advance only their proposal
15	earned premiums and some of them are very	15	for the approved approached improved
16	substantial.	16	approach to job assignments, and they would
17	Okay. I'd like to just briefly discuss	17	achieve that through automated bids, self-
18	the Carriers' proposal for improved approach to	18	supporting pools, and pool regulation.
19	job assignments. It's a three-prong proposal.	19	And I'm not going to spend too much time
20	Unlike the Unions' kitchen sink approach, the	20	talking about this. We'll have witnesses
21	Carriers took a much more tailored approach at	21	discuss it. But as you'll hear, the proposal's
22	the outset of bargaining in order to allow for	22	intended in part to address the craft Unions'

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	rage 000		
1	concerns regarding scheduling predictability as	1	in past. And we think tha
2	well as related quality of life issues. And as	2	and that's sort of the proc
3	you'll hear, it is the only operationally	3	followed for future agreen
4	viable option before this board that would	4	Second, the Carriers
5	address the Unions' issues.	5	Union employees one paid
6	As the witnesses will discuss and as	6	that's not just for the ops
7	explained in the Carriers' submission, the	7	that's for all the employee
8	proposal is justified. Mr. Rodgers will	8	compare the values of that
9	explain that the Carriers created a sufficient	9	the potential savings that
10	bargaining record in support of the proposal.	10	achieve if their proposals
11	Second, we'll have some witnesses from	11	about a one-for-one trade
12	Norfolk Southern who will explain the proposed	12	Okay. So this is our
13	changes are incremental and supported by	13	work rule case. It shows
14	compelling need. They've already been	14	witnesses we'll be present
15	negotiated on some Carriers and are resulting	15	they will be discussing. If
16	in material win-wins that we'll share with the	16	topics being discussed, yo
17	board and discuss.	17	Carriers are not making a
18	Finally, the Carriers are offering two	18	on any of Unions' craft spe
19	quid pro quos for this change. First, the	19	proposals.
20	Carriers have offered to explore appropriate	20	As I mentioned, the l
21	quid pro quos during discussions at the local	21	proceeding. It doesn't all
22	level. That's how agreements have been reached	22	time for robust debate on

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in past. And we think that more agreements
and that's sort of the process that should be
followed for future agreements.
Second, the Carriers are offering all
Union employees one paid day off, right. And
that's not just for the ops craft employees,
that's for all the employees. And when you
compare the values of that paid day off versus
the potential savings that the Carriers would
achieve if their proposals were accepted, it's
about a one-for-one trade.
Okay. So this is our roadmap for our
work rule case. It shows the Carriers'

nting and the topics If you read the ou'll note that the a detailed presentation pecific work rule

board is a condensed llow for sufficient n every proposal that

23 (Pages 686 to 689)

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	Tage 000		Tage 001
1	the Union brings. And so following the	1	a question.
2	guidance of Presidential Emergency Board 243,	2	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Mr. Birnbaum, we've
3	the Carriers believe that the overarching	3	got a question from the member.
4	arguments in opposition to the Union's	4	MR. BIRNBAUM: I'm sorry.
5	proposals, insufficient bargaining record, too	5	UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: You mentioned that
6	many proposals that are too expensive,	6	employees have options of ways they can get
7	proposals not supported by quid pro quos,	7	paid time off in events of unanticipated
8	proposals not incremental, that each of those	8	sickness, and so that they don't need these
9	compel a recommendation to withdraw the	9	extra sick days.
10	proposals.	10	Can the personal days that employees
11	That said, the Carriers' opposition to	11	have now be used for unanticipated sickness?
12	the other craft specific proposal is laid out	12	MR. BIRNBAUM: You're talking about the
13	in more detail in submission four., and if	13	is she talking about the personal yeah,
14	necessary may be explained in further detail on	14	we'll have witnesses who explain the usage of
15	Thursday.	15	all of the of all the days.
16	I'm now going to turn it over to Mr.	16	UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Okay, fine. Thank
17	Rodgers, the NRLC's vice-chairman to conclude	17	you.
18	or introductory remarks and provide some color	18	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: And before you
19	on the bargaining process. CHAIRPERSON JAFFE:	19	leave, I've got just one.
20	Thank you, Mr. Birnbaum. Do you have any	20	MR. BIRNBAUM: Okay. Yes, sir.
21	questions you want to pose?	21	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Thank you. You've
22	UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: I do actually have	22	indicated that several Carriers have addressed

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		_	
CH	1	the proposal that the Carriers have presented	1
you very	2	already by way of local agreements, correct?	2
Ma	3	MR. BIRNBAUM: Yes.	3
Rodgers	4	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: And so my question	4
THEREUPO	5	is, rather than address this nationally as	5
	6	you're seeking, are you essentially asking us	6
was call	7	to remand this for local negotiation or are you	7
duly swo	8	doing something else, so I understand it?	8
MR	9	MR. BIRNBAUM: We are. It's all laid	9
said, I a	10	out in detail in the proposal. But we are	10
the NRL	11	proposing that it be remanded for local	11
past 13	12	handling where the parties could pursue the	12
relations	13	right quid pro quo match to make the	13
the rail i	14	arrangement work on a local level.	14
relations	15	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: And if they don't	15
the Unit	16	reach agreement?	16
and the	17	MR. BIRNBAUM: We proposed an	17
Nov	18	arbitration backstop.	18
have be	19	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: That's what I	19
national	20	thought. I just wanted to clarify the	20
current	21	position.	21
industry	22	MR. BIRNBAUM: Sure.	22

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1	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: That's fine. Thank
2	you very much.
3	May I ask that the reporter swear in Mr.
4	Rodgers, please.
5	THEREUPON:
6	JEFF RODGERS
7	was called for examination, and, after being
8	duly sworn, testified as follows:
9	MR. RODGERS: Good morning. As David
0	said, I am Jeff Rodgers, the Vice-Chairman for
1	the NRLC. And I've held that position for the
2	past 13 years. Now, I've been in labor
3	relations since 1994, both in the airlines and
4	the rail industries. No in addition to labor
5	relations, I've had the privilege to serve in
6	the United States Air Force both in active duty
7	and the reserves.
8	Now in my role as that vice-chairman, I
9	have been intimately involved in the past two
0	national bargaining rounds, and as well as this
1	current one, including representing the
2	industry at the bargaining table. And I also

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1	participated in PEB 243.	1	bargaining and a quid pro quo.
2	Now, during my testimony I will cover	2	The 2010 and 2015 rounds, they provide
3	the following subjects. First, I will provide	3	example of how work rule issues were dealt with
4	an overview of the most recent bargaining	4	at the national level.
5	rounds and what was covered regarding work	5	Looking at the 2010 round, the UTU,
6	rules to help to put current context into the	6	which is now Smart TD, opted to bargain on its
7	current round.	7	own instead of with a broader coalition. Early
8	Second, I will briefly discuss the	8	in the round, very early in the round, they
9	Unions' proposal and why they should all be	9	approached us what a narrow list of work rule
10	withdrawn.	10	demands. They wanted more vacation,
11	And finally, I'll provide a brief	11	elimination of rate progression, and increased
12	overview of our single three-pronged work rule	12	meal allowance, and certification pay for
13	proposal, and the reasons the board should	13	conductors.
14	recommend its adoption.	14	Now, in part, because they approached us
15	Now, it is appropriate to bargain about	15	with such a narrow list, and frankly, a
16	work rules at the national table. In recent	16	willingness to address some of our issues, we
17	rounds, however, we have focused on wages and	17	were able to reach agreement in 16 months. And
18	health and welfare benefits only. In the past	18	it's not easy. You know, we had meaningful
19	few rounds, the parties have actually agreed to	19	dialogue on our issues, and that allowed us to
20	finalize negotiation with minor and incremental	20	reach an agreement without the need to file for
21	work rule changes if there were any at all.	21	mediation.
22	And those changes were the results of intensive	22	Now in that round we agreed to two

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1	aspects of UTU's compensation-related work rule	1	was ratified overwhelming by several of the
2	changes and the UTU wage increases came in	2	Unions.
3	exchange for the Carriers' healthcare changes.	3	Now as for the current round, little
4	Now even with the pattern agreement	4	time was spent on the Unions' proposals. At
5	already in place, several of the Unions that	5	the start of the round, the Unions asked for
6	presented at PEB 243 proposed a laundry list of	6	many work rule changes with little detail about
7	work rule demands. Many of which were not	7	them. Many of them we have never seen before
8	bargained for in a meaningful way, and they	8	in exchange until the exchange of
9	offered nothing in exchange for them.	9	submissions.
10	Now the board of 243 correctly	10	Now we didn't receive proposed contract
11	recommended that most of the Union work rule	11	language at the bargaining table for the
12	requests be withdrawn. Instead, they provided	12	Unions, whereas in contrast we made
13	the Unions with compensation of equivalent	13	considerable effort to discuss our proposals in
14	value of the UTU work rule changes.	14	detail, including specific details about them.
15	Now, in the 2015 round you have both	15	Now much like they did in previous
16	parties. We came into the round with a robust	16	rounds and in this round, the Unions made
17	list of work rules. However, at one point in	17	hundreds of sweeping and expensive demands that
18	the latter part of bargaining, both sides	18	would unduly increase costs and have an adverse
19	agreed to drop all of our work rule proposals	19	impact to railroad operations.
20	and we focused on what we so call a skinny	20	As you see on the screen, this is an
21	deal, and that moderates only wages and	21	overview of the Unions demands throughout the
22	healthcare. And the nice thing about it is it	22	round. And we've grouped the proposals into

25 (Pages 694 to 697)

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1	categories because all of the all of them	1	our proposals.
2	would not fit onto one screen.	2	But today the coalitions, they have
3	We counted over two hundred proposals	3	modified their positions. And, however, even
4	for the coalitions, including each of the	4	with this modification, the costs are
5	individual Unions' own demands. Now as you	5	extensive. And the costs for us is many of the
6	would expect, it made it difficult for us to	6	Unions' demands are not incremental and would
7	know what their priority issues were.	7	be very disruptive to railroad operations.
8	Now throughout little was done to	8	Now I stated earlier many times both
9	actually narrow down these issues. It was not	9	coalition proposals have not been discussed in
10	until March of 2021 for the CBC Coalition and	10	any meaningful way during bargaining. There
11	June of 2021 for BMWE and Smart Mechanical that	11	was no real time spent discussing issues, and
12	they've updated their proposals. But frankly,	12	some were not discussed at all.
13	there was little movement from their original	13	Now this chart is an estimate based on
14	Section 6 notices.	14	our notes of the times spent bargaining them.
15	Now I would note that we worked with Mr.	15	Nine of the fourteen proposed changes, other
16	Roth on costing of the BMWE and Smart	16	than reading them to us, were discussed less
17	Mechanical proposals for time off on wages, and	17	than five minutes. The cost of those nine
18	it was a helpful exercise. However, we were	18	items is over \$360 million annually.
19	never able to do the same for CBC. In my	19	Now BNRS, they included a proposal for
20	bargaining experience, a costing exercise has	20	wage adjustments of 25 percent for maintenance
21	always been a necessary step in the process.	21	employees in their Section 6 notice. Then they
22	However, CBG rejected the offer to jointly cost	22	dropped it in their March of 2021 comprehensive

D. 700

	Page 700		Page 701
1	proposal, and now they have it back in the PEB	1	especially troubling when you consider the cost
2	proposal.	2	of their proposals.
3	Furthermore, the Unions did not speak to	3	The work rule proposals that we did
4	specifics of their current PEB proposals or	4	attempt to cost were evaluated both on an
5	introduce contract language for their proposals	5	overall GWI equivalent value as well as a GWI
6	during bargaining. Now, not having details	6	value for specific crafts that are shown on
7	about proposals such as scheduled days off does	7	this table.
8	not allow for meaningful progress on important	8	Now, for example, BRS, they're asking
9	issues for both sides.	9	for five dollars per hour pay increase. And
10	I would say another example of us seeing	10	although the GWI equivalent value across all
11	details of a craft specific proposal for the	11	the Union employees seems relatively low, for
12	first time is BMWE's travel allowance and their	12	the craft it's an additional 8.1 percent GWI
13	expenses away from home. Now Mr. Karov, he	13	equivalent value. Those crafts have not
14	will explain later, the BMWE proposals	14	offered any basis as to why their employees
15	represent a different shift in how the parties	15	should receive additional compensation that no
16	have historically handled travel allowance and	16	other craft would receive.
17	expenses away from home. But as you know, to	17	In total, the Unions' proposals are over
18	have meaningful discussions of any of the	18	a billion dollars annually, which is over 10
19	proposals, it's the first step to understanding	19	percent in equivalent GWI value. Sick and
20	the impact to the operations and the potential	20	holiday make up 75 percent of the total cost
21	additional costs. The fact that the Unions did	21	with an annual value of \$835 million and would
22	not engage in significant bargaining is	22	have a significant impact on rail operations.

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1	The expenses of all other craft specific	1	Most of the Unions' proposals in their
2	proposals are about \$300 million annually or	2	current state were not in their Section 6
3	almost another three percent GWI equivalent	3	notice. Also, had the coalitions reduced their
4	value above the 28 percent requested.	4	demands earlier in the round, we had probably
5	Additionally, some of the Unions most	5	been able to work with them on some sort of
6	significant and troubling demands are not even	6	compromise as we've done in the past.
7	reflected in the costing. As we stated before,	7	Our framework documents and
8	we were not able to cost three of the fourteen	8	presentations in our comprehensive proposals,
9	proposals, the attendance demand, scheduling	9	we attempted to address some of issues raised
10	days off and TCU sick proposal. Not having the	10	by the Unions. For example, the Unions'
11	needed detailed discussions on these three	11	proposed changes to bereavement leave. We
12	proposals, it makes it really difficult to	12	heard them and we proposed to adopt part of
13	evaluate the impact it has on the network. But	13	their proposal. The BMWE and Smart Mechanical
14	I will say, and you'll hear from others that	14	coalition turned around and increased their
15	these specific proposals, if they were	15	demand.
16	implemented, it would have a substantial impact	16	Despite the lack of productive
17	on our operations, on our employees and our	17	bargaining, we suggested establishing small
18	customers.	18	working groups during our August 2021 meeting
19	I'm going to take this time to review	19	in Cleveland with CBC. The goal of the groups,
20	some of the Unions' specific proposals at a	20	they were there to establish an understanding
21	high level, and then we'll have my colleagues	21	of the position on a few selected rules to
22	review them in much greater detail.	22	better be able to cost out the proposals and
	5 504		

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understand the impact.	1	post.
The op small working group met three	2	For example, BMWE and Smart Mechanical
times, and the non-op small working group met	3	did not propose any additional holidays in
once. And during the operating craft small	4	their Section 6 notice. In their June 2021
working group, we did have detailed discussions	5	comprehensive proposal, they proposed one
about some of both side's proposals. However,	6	holiday. After declaring impasse in February
most of the discussions centered around the	7	of 2022, they increased their holiday ask to
Carriers' proposals for improved approach to	8	two holidays in May. And they are now
job assignments, and it included its option	9	proposing three holidays.
such as scheduled days off, preapproved	10	Now the same was for CBC. On March 24,
layoffs, and swapping turns in exchange for	11	2021, they had six holidays. In our non-op
self-supporting pools and pool regulation.	12	small working group meeting in October of '21,
Now we made progress. Absolutely. But	13	they changed it to seven holidays. Then in
in the end, the Unions opted to not progress	14	January of 2022, they listed two holidays,
the discussions with the small working groups	15	declared an impasse, and then added an
after the third meeting.	16	additional holiday, which now makes it three
Now, Vice-President of Transportation,	17	holidays. I get it. It's absolutely the
Matt Garland, and General Director of Labor	18	party's right to change their proposal.
Relations, Melissa Beasley-Coke at BNSF, they	19	However, for us to truly have the ability to
will discuss the Unions' paid time off in	20	cost the impact and seriously address their
detail. It is difficult to identify bargaining	21	concerns, we need to have more in depth
priorities if their seen as moving the goal	22	discussion.

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1	Now, the days the Unions have requested,	1	particular holiday may be more important to one		
2	Martin Luther King holiday, Juneteenth, and	2	person, but it may not be as important to		
3	Veteran's Day, they're all-important dates for	3	someone else. Our proposal of an additional		
4	sure to be recognized. As a veteran myself, I	4	paid leave day will allow an employee to take		
5	understand and appreciate the sacrifice our	5	that day if it's important to them.		
6	service men and women have made for this	6	Now as far as sick leave is concerned,		
7	country and what that day means to all of us	7	the national agreement does not provide		
8	that served.	8	employees with both paid sick days and		
9	Now given the diverse employee base for	9	supplemental sickness benefit. This would be a		
10	the industry and the railroads appreciate the	10	notable change to our current agreements, and		
11	desire to recognize Martin Luther King holiday	11	we believe would have a major impact on the		
12	and Juneteenth. And to that extent, we did	12	operations.		
13	discuss, and we've done this in the past,	13	Of course the answer to just add more		
14	swapping a current holiday for the days	14	employees is not a viable solution and it would		
15	identified by the Unions. As far as	15	not resolve the issue. Instead, we believe we		
16	benchmarking for holidays, rail employees, they	16	could actually address many of the concerns		
17	do receive eleven holidays. The BLS union	17	raised by the operating craft unions with our		
18	benchmark of ten holidays and also the private	18	approach to improved job assignments, and I'll		
19	sector holidays is lower.	19	cover that later.		
20	In addition, we are proposing one	20	Turning to the attendance policy. BNSF		
21	personal leave day that could be used for	21	Assistant Vice-President of Labor Relations,		
22	holiday if the employee so wishes. A	22	Sam Macedonio will explain the complex		

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1	scheduling issues and challenges associated	1	job study, and we went to visit several work
2	with rail transportation and why we manage	2	sites over a period of several months. And I
3	attendance the way we do. He'll highlight that	3	was clear to the Carriers that the maintenance
4	the Unions' proposal is contrary to historical	4	employees did not need an adjustment to their
5	practice, ignores operational requirements, and	5	wages based on the study.
6	again point to the fact that they offered	6	Contrary to what BRS wrote in their
7	nothing in exchange for a major shift in	7	submission, we did not refuse any part of that
8	current practice.	8	study. In fact, when we completed the visits
9	Now regarding other Union demands. In	9	with BRS, we suggested that they draft a report
10	many cases, they closely resembled a recycle	10	that we could review. This never happened, so
11	request from previous rounds. They are	11	I could only surmise that it was not a priority
12	expensive and in some cases just additional	12	for them. As far as ATDA, they wanted to add
13	compensation. Also they were not part of a	13	supplemental sickness benefit in addition to
14	Section 6 notice or subsequent comprehensive	14	the paid sick leave. And you'll hear that
15	proposal.	15	supplemental sickness benefit was added in
16	Chairman Jaffe, you may recall two of	16	exchange for the elimination of sick days in
17	the proposals were part of a nonbinding	17	the 1970s. No deal was reached for their
18	recommendation by the board of PEB 243. Those	18	proposal, and today ATDA is asking for the same
19	proposals where the BRS job responsibility pay	19	thing.
20	and ATDA's request for adding supplemental	20	Now ATDA employees already have paid
21	sickness benefits for their members.	21	sick leave. And their request for supplemental
22	Now, I personally took part in the BRS	22	sickness benefit is something that is beyond

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sites over a period of several months. And I
was clear to the Carriers that the maintenance
employees did not need an adjustment to their
wages based on the study.
Contrary to what BRS wrote in their
submission, we did not refuse any part of that
study. In fact, when we completed the visits
with BRS, we suggested that they draft a report
that we could review. This never happened, so
I could only surmise that it was not a priority
for them. As far as ATDA, they wanted to add

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what any other craft employees receive.	1	competitive. The proposal we have provides
Given that we have not seen the details	2	increased liability for our customers by
in many of the craft-specific proposals before	3	ensuring that they receive shipments on time,
this recent exchange, the sheer expense of	4	and it minimizes service disruptions created by
these demands coupled with no bargaining over	5	decades old displacement work rule.
them leads to our belief that all of them	6	Additionally, technology has given us
should be dismissed.	7	the ability to be more transparent with our
Now as you've heard our theme throughout	8	employees with a scheduling system that
the bargaining round has been modernization.	9	provides reliability with respect to the
It was part of our Section 6 notice. It was	10	employee's scheduled assignments.
part of many of the presentations we've made,	11	Now it's important to note, and as
and it's stated throughout the case in chief.	12	stated before by David, we started the
We have invested heavily in our network, and	13	bargaining round with 23 rule changes. All of
yet we have not seen a significant work rule	14	which were seen to update many of the rules
improvement in over three decades to keep up	15	that have not been changed in decades. You
with those changes. In part due to the shift	16	know, proposals that would allow employees to
from coal to more intermodal traffic, our	17	focus on their core work versus odd jobs that
customers want their items faster than ever.	18	took them away from their primary duties.
We seek to modernize work rules to better serve	19	Outdated barriers that restricted movement
our customers.	20	between the yard and through freight.
Now it cannot be overstated that	21	In other areas that improved the
predictability is truly necessary to remain	22	operations with the potential to improve the

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1	quality of life for employees. Now, throughout	1	provides for automated
2	the bargaining round we withdrew several of our	2	supporting pools, and p
3	policies, and today we opted to drop the	3	very especially importa
4	remaining proposals except for our improved	4	proposal is that it will h
5	approach to job assignments.	5	and junior employees.
6	Now recognizing that a PEB, it's not an	6	Since we're seekin
7	appropriate place for major work rule changes,	7	have added contract lar
8	particularly where wages and benefits are such	8	proposal in Appendix 1,
9	contentious issues. We have narrowed down our	9	nuances for sure at eac
10	work rule ask to one three-pronged approach.	10	would need to be refine
11	It impacts the operating crafts only and	11	address those issues or
12	is aimed at improving our approach to job	12	serving written notice o
13	assignments. Employees will know with	13	implement an approved
14	certainty their assignments for a set period	14	assignments.
15	without the dread of being displaced. We chose	15	Now during those
16	to advance this proposal to the PEB in part	16	parties would jointly de
17	because it's responsive to the operating	17	life enhancements work
18	craft's request for more scheduling	18	scheduled rest days, cro
19	predictability and as a better alternative to	19	prearranged layoffs. No
20	the Unions' scheduling and attendance policies	20	Scott Weaver and group
21	proposals. Excuse me.	21	Elium from Norfolk Sou
22	Our proposal to improve job assignments	22	proposal in more detail

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provides for automated job bidding, self-
supporting pools, and pool regulation. And a
very especially important aspect of this
proposal is that it will help both the senior
and junior employees.
Since we're seeking a national rule, we
have added contract language if our PEB
proposal in Appendix 1, Tab 116. Now there are
nuances for sure at each railroad network that
would need to be refined, but we plan to
address those issues on a local basis by
serving written notice of the intent to
implement an approved approach to job
assignments.
Now during those local discussions, the
parties would jointly decide which quality of
life enhancements work best for them, such as
scheduled rest days, creating assignments or
prearranged layoffs. Now we'll have member
Scott Weaver and group vice-president Jacob
Elium from Norfolk Southern explain the
proposal in more detail in the ways that they

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1	will result in wins for us, the employees, and	1	scheduling craft employees, and to explain the
2	our customers alike.	2	reasons why Unions' paid time off should be
3	Now, in conclusion, all the Unions'	3	withdrawn.
4	proposals should be withdrawn because they are	4	I want to thank the board members for
5	non-incremental, and they add substantial cost.	5	your time and your attention. Thank you.
6	Furthermore, the Unions did not offer	6	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Thank you, Mr.
7	any quid pro quo for their proposals and have	7	Rogers. We're in good shape at this point.
8	not demonstrated any compelling need.	8	Thank you very much. Off the record, please.
9	And lastly, as I stated previously, the	9	(Thereupon, a brief recess was
10	Unions spent little time at the bargaining	10	taken.)
11	table discussing their proposals. Instead, the	11	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Back on, please. At
12	Carriers have proposed a three-pronged approach	12	your convenience, Mr. Munro.
13	to improving job assignments that will provide	13	MR. MUNRO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14	a long-needed modernization to the process and	14	Our next pair of witnesses are Matthew
15	should improve employee's quality of life.	15	Garland who is the Vice-President of
16	Now the witnesses that will follow will	16	Transportation at the BNSF, and Melissa
17	explain the severe negative impacts the Unions'	17	Beasley-Coke who is General Director of Labor
18	demands could have on the networks, our	18	Relations at the BNSF, and they are going to
19	customers, and our employees. At this time I	19	address paid leave and scheduling.
20	think we're going to take a break, but after	20	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Thank you very much.
21	me, Matt and Melissa are going to discuss paid	21	May I ask the reporter to please swear in the
22	time off and the challenges we place when	22	witnesses.

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1	THEREUPON:	1	I'v
2	MATT GARLAND	2	Ca
3	was called for examination, and, after being	3	Ch
4	duly sworn, testified as follows:	4	
5	MR. GARLAND: Good morning, Mr.	5	bu
6	Chairman, Members of the Board.	6	bo
7	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Good morning.	7	Un
8	MR. GARLAND: I will be presenting today	8	wa
9	along with my colleague, Melissa Beasley-Coke.	9	sta
10	My name is Matt Garland. I'm Vice-President of	10	ch
11	Operations responsible for transportation.	11	ex
12	That includes approximately 15,000 TY&E	12	
13	employees, our network operations center,	13	wi
14	dispatching operations, locomotive	14	tha
15	distribution, crew management, and our	15	be
16	intermodal and merchandise terminals.	16	to
17	Beyond that scope, I really had two	17	An
18	primary responsibilities at the BNSF, keeping	18	the
19	my employees safe and running an efficient	19	cu
20	network for our customers. I've been in the	20	Cre
21	industry for over two decades. I started on	21	tha
22	the former Sante Fe property in New Mexico, and	22	sa

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hat will show why the Unions' proposal would e extremely disruptive not only with potential o harm the rail industry, but the overall merican economy. First I will be addressing he way transportation employees work, the urrent amount of time off and the impacts of rew availability. However, before I begin nat portion of the presentation, I do want to ay none of this is to diminish the important

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1	work that our employees do. It's a very hard	1	TY&E employees, which is our engineers and
2	job and I'm proud of the entire team and the	2	conductors and freight service. There are two
3	work they do every day to keep the American	3	types of service within the rail industry. One
4	economy moving.	4	is assigned service with set schedules and set
5	So here's what's being proposed. 15	5	days off. The other is unassigned service,
6	days of paid leave, no refusal, no	6	which will be the focus of our presentation
7	documentation necessary to take these days, and	7	today.
8	no questions asked, along with no consequences.	8	We have two primary methods of staffing
9	So while calling it sick leave, the Unions'	9	unassigned service. They are freight pools and
10	proposal will amount to no notice single days'	10	extra boards which supplement those pools.
11	vacation. In addition, three additional paid	11	Freight pools protect service between two
12	holidays or their equivalent, involuntary rest	12	locations. Trains operate between home
13	dates for operating craft employees.	13	terminals and away from home terminals in
14	So to start, I just want to level set	14	segments that are generally under 12 hours, and
15	and provide a quick high-level overview of how	15	the process takes place until destination.
16	rail operations are staffed. To meet customer	16	Employees assigned to a pool are placed
17	demands, railroad must operate 24 hours a day,	17	on a rotating list or a board based on when the
18	7 days a week, 365 days a year. Most trains	18	employee last returned to their home terminal.
19	don't run on fixed schedules, and by extension,	19	When a train is ready to depart, the employee
20	most operating craft employees don't work on	20	at the top of the board is called to work.
21	fixed schedules.	21	Employees are typically called 90 to 120
22	The focus for this overview will be on	22	minutes before they must report to work.

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1	Technology over the past decade has	1
2	enabled our employees to improve their quality	2
3	of life versus in the past where employees had	3
4	to wait by their home phones to be called.	4
5	In Ms. Carter's testimony yesterday, she	5
6	discussed our app called Work Force Hub. This	6
7	application enables employees to use a mobile	7
8	platform to check their position on a board to	8
9	get a better sense for when they will be called	9
10	for work. Other carriers also deploy the same	10
11	technology.	11
12	When an employee whose terms comes up is	12
13	available for work, it creates a temporary	13
14	vacancy that must be filled. In most cases,	14
15	the Carriers first try to fill these vacancies	15
16	by calling someone from the extra-board. The	16
17	extra-board exists to fill temporary vacancies	17
18	created when an employee assigned to a pool	18
19	working off from work. However, employees on	19
20	the extra-board are not guaranteed to be	20
21	available for work either.	21
22	So here's a look at the typical model of	22

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how freight is moved across the industry. And
this is a simplistic example. Art is called
off a freight pool to take a train from his
home terminal to his away from home terminal.
Once Art arrives at the away from home
terminal, he's provided at a minimum 10 hours
off duty that is undisturbed. Time spent at
away from home terminal is typically in hotels,
and employees can use that time as they see
fit. It is in both the employee's and
management's best interest to limit this amount
of time away from home so they can not only be
productive but get back to their home. In this
example, Art is called from his away from home
terminal to take a train back to his home
terminal.
Although this might make staffing sound
easy in reality it's not Employees and

easy, in reality it's not. Employees and unassigned service can lay off from work with virtually no questions asked simply by calling through management or using the app on their phone. Employees can mark off for all sorts of

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1	reasons, including sickness, FMLA, and personal	1	that are available, or said in another way,
2	reasons, and are unavailable for work until	2	this shows that roughly 40 percent of employees
3	they mark back up.	3	take off each holiday primarily in an
4	So here's a look at the amount of the	4	unscheduled service. This not only leaves the
5	employees of BNFF that are off on any given	5	burden on other employees to carry the
6	day. This amount represents employee absences	6	workload, but it leaves critical worker
7	by day of week. You'll notice the big	7	shortages that force trains to stop across the
8	increases on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.	8	country and create significantly ^^
9	This is a key issue and very important as the	9	disruptions.
10	transportation network operates 24/7, 365.	10	So in this example when the pool freight
11	Consistency is extremely key not only to moving	11	boards are exhausted, we utilize extra-boards
12	goods to keep the American economy moving but	12	to supplement until both boards have been
13	is critical to our customers.	13	exhausted. In this example, all employees
14	Next we'll look at the unavailability on	14	decided to lay off, call in sick, or use other
15	holidays. Even though we compensate our	15	ad hoc methods not to work. That then caused
16	employees to be available on holidays, we see	16	Eric to take a call off the extra-board.
17	high amounts of absenteeism. This chart shows	17	Layoff patterns by employees on the extra-board
18	percentage of availability. The blue shaded	18	mirror the layoff patterns for employees in the
19	area represents 70 percent and below, which is	19	pool. Unavailability peaks on weekends and
20	generally where we experience service impacts	20	holidays and in conjunction with special
21	due to high absenteeism. This is a look at the	21	events. When large spikes of layoff occur, it
22	major holidays and the percentage of employees	22	sends a ripple effect through train scheduling

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	rage /24	
1	until both boards are exhausted and then we're	1
2	forced to park trains.	2
3	These patterns have a real employee	3
4	impact. When everyone calls in laid off in an	4
5	ad hoc way, the employee, who was Eric in this	5
6	situation, might not have been expecting to go	6
7	to work, and this forced him into a situation	7
8	where he had to make a decision to either take	8
9	the call or lay off.	9
10	So before I cover this section, I do	10
11	want to again recognize how important our	11
12	employees are. They are the backbone of what	12
13	we do and as we will continue to demonstrate,	13
14	we literally cannot do this without them. We	14
15	have heard during this hearing that there is an	15
16	allegation that TY&E employees are overworked.	16
17	The actual data does not support that claim.	17
18	This is a look at the number of starts	18
19	when an employee is called to go to work, and	19
20	it shows that assigned service employees in the	20
21	course of a year average 204 starts, had 113	21
22	contractual days off, and then took another	22

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1	forty ad hoc days off.
2	Employees in unassigned service average
3	174 starts a year, took forty contractual days
4	off, and then another eighty-one ad hoc days
5	off. On average shows BNSF TY&E employees have
6	3 to 4 weeks of paid vacation and over ten paid
7	leave days a year.
8	Here's the average hours worked over the
9	past few years at BNSF, as well as the Carrier
10	average. You can see that over the course of a
11	year, our TY&E employees are averaging
12	approximately 35 hours work per week.
13	Now to be sure, this doesn't account for
14	the time spent away from home terminal and
15	hotels. And as described in the staffing
16	overview where employees are resting until they
17	are called to bring a train back to their home
18	terminal. However, as described in both the
19	Carriers it's both of our interests, the
20	Carriers, and employees to limit that amount of
21	time away from home terminal, not only for
22	quality of life, but for productivity.

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On this chart you can see the data for	1	which operates between Los Angeles and Chicago.
all Carriers, all crafts. This again does not	2	If staffing levels are adequate and were fully
support the Unions' position that employees are	3	staffed as we are right now in Arizona, New
overworked. As you can see over the past 20	4	Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Iowa, and Illinois.
years, the trend is actually going down.	5	But if they're not adequate in California, then
So here's a look at the effect of crew	6	it impacts the entire flow of trains between
shortages and we'll start talking about the	7	Chicago and Los Angeles, because you can't get
impact. When employee availability generally	8	trains into or out of California. This is
drops below 70 percent, the impact is	9	another key insight and can help inform the
widespread. Just like flight delays in the	10	board in why we don't believe this is
airline industry, train delays have a domino	11	widespread worker shortage.
effect that can take weeks and sometimes months	12	Why we are offering hiring incentives in
to recover from. This is not just a staffing	13	some locations, but not others, and why having
issue. This is an issue of excessive layoffs.	14	consistent employee availability is critical to
So here's the key insight. It does no	15	our business.
good to have more employees if employees are	16	Okay. So I know there's a lot going on
all taking the same day off. In the next set	17	in this chart. Let me first describe the graph
of pages, I will cover real world examples of	18	you see in front of you. This is a look at
this happening and the impact to BNSF.	19	availability percentages at BNSF over a period
The modern rail system is a network-	20	of five months. So when it comes to
based business just like an assembly line.	21	availability, the Carriers are never starting
Take for example the Southern Transcon at BNSF,	22	at 100 percent. Every day some number of
	1	

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	Tage 720		Tage 725
1	employees, typically between 8 to 12 percent of	1	enough people to fill that 17 percent gap.
2	the total TY&E population are off on scheduled	2	Even though we recognize that on many days we
3	vacation. Those employees represented in the	3	might not need that many employees.
4	dark gray on the slide.	4	Nevertheless, on any particular day, the
5	Then some additional percentages of the	5	number of BNSF employees who lay off from work
6	TY&E population is on assigned rest. Typically	6	could exceed the number of layoffs expected.
7	somewhere between 6 to 12 percent of the TY&E	7	These additional unanticipated layoffs are
8	population. Those employees are represented in	8	shown in brown on the slide.
9	the light gray on the slide.	9	A few other things to note about this
10	So just accounting for those two	10	slide. Availability is in constant flux. That
11	variables alone, availability can be as low as	11	makes it more difficult to determine proper
12	75 percent. When trying to determine proper	12	staffing. Availability is cyclical. There are
13	staffing using historical data, we assume the	13	peaks and valleys associated with weekdays and
14	certain percentage of employees that we'll lay	14	weekends. You'll notice that the peaks and
15	off every day, that group is represented in the	15	valleys are not as sharp when it comes to
16	peach color on the slide.	16	vacations. That's because the Carriers have
17	There is a difference of approximately	17	processes in place to help manage those
18	17 percent between the peak unavailability rate	18	scheduled absences in a way that minimize the
19	associated with assigned rest and vacations,	19	operational impact of them.
20	and a peak unavailability rate associated with	20	At BNSF, for example, agreements limit
21	with expected layoffs. And we build that and	21	the number of employees in a single location
22	buffer into our models trying to hire and staff	22	who can take weekly vacations at one time. In

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1	addition, requests to take single-day vacation	1	throughout the course of the week, we see high
2	or personal leave can be denied on the needs of	2	amounts of absenteeism on the weekends, or for
3	service.	3	major sporting events or for holidays.
4	The much bigger problem for the Carriers	4	Our attendance systems were created to
5	is unscheduled absences such as when employees	5	try and flatten out this pattern so that our
6	lay off sick for personal reasons. These	6	employees would have more confidence in when
7	absences are much more difficult to manage,	7	they were going to work, and our customers
8	because unlike vacation, they generally occur	8	would see improved consistency. This again
9	with little to no notice and cannot be denied	9	illustrates why giving employees access to 15
10	based on the needs of service.	10	days unrestricted without any guidance would
11	While historical data is helpful in	11	further harm these two objectives and would
12	predicting the number of layoffs, this isn't	12	cause massive logistical disruptions.
13	full proof. The actual number of layoffs on	13	So I'm going to bring us down to a
14	any given day can fall short or exceed the	14	station level pattern. This is an illustration
15	projection in some case by large amounts.	15	of Lincoln Terminal. It's a large Midwest rail
16	A good example of that can be seen on	16	operation. This is key at Lincoln to moving
17	the 4th of July. Last year on the 4th of July,	17	energy products across the country that
18	BNSF experienced a sharp uptick in layoffs	18	ultimately end up being used to power
19	decreasing overall availability to below 60	19	electrical utilities to keep the lights on in
20	percent. The spikes you see on this chart are	20	America.
21	the weekends and holidays. And even though we	21	This is the same example I showed, but
22	compensate our employees to be available	22	at station level. And you can see the pattern

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1	of high unavailability that occurs with spikes	1	skyrockets. And as mentioned, this doesr
2	on the weekends. And also shows large amounts	2	just impact a single day, it can take over a
3	of additional layoffs for sporting events,	3	week to restore the network and recover t
4	concerts, and holidays. The Unions again would	4	layoff levels.
5	like to point the finger and say that we just	5	Let's now zoom back out to the syste
6	need to hire more people. But again, it does	6	level. Using the same illustration, you car
7	no good if every employee is taking off on the	7	see the shock this has to the system. And
8	said day. And it won't change the dynamic you	8	big spikes you see on the brown line were
9	see here.	9	layoffs above the expected rate, and the i
10	I will now demonstrate the impact that	10	on the black line to train delayed. As you
11	this has and illustrate that it's not just a	11	see when an event occurred in June, and
12	single mass layoff event. After it happens,	12	on the left side of the chart, that amount
13	it's over and done with. These effects can	13	trains holding went up. And then when th
14	linger for weeks and sometimes months after a	14	happened again on July 4th, just as we we
15	period of high unavailability.	15	starting to recover, this resulted in thirty
16	So here's a chart of what happens after	16	trains each day at a hold over a month-lo
17	a major holiday or on a weekend. The brown	17	period.
18	line is the amount of layoffs, and the black	18	So when we have thirty trains holding
19	line is the amount of trains holding or delays	19	for a month, here's an example of what is
20	associated. Now you can see the direct	20	delayed. And this is just on one Carrier's
21	correlation between these two. As employees	21	network. This impacts 38,000 tons of coa
22	all lay off at once, the amount of delays	22	10,000 tons of grain, rock, steel. Over 1,

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	skyrockets. And as mentioned, this doesn't
	just impact a single day, it can take over a
	week to restore the network and recover to pre-
	layoff levels.
i	Let's now zoom back out to the system
i	level. Using the same illustration, you can
	see the shock this has to the system. And the
	big spikes you see on the brown line were
1	layoffs above the expected rate, and the impact
	on the black line to train delayed. As you can
	see when an event occurred in June, and that's
	on the left side of the chart, that amount of
	trains holding went up. And then when this
	happened again on July 4th, just as we were
	starting to recover, this resulted in thirty
	trains each day at a hold over a month-long
	period.
	So when we have thirty trains holding
	for a month, here's an example of what is
	dolayod And this is just on one Carrier's

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1	trailers and containers that are much needed in	1	unavailable and all take the same day off.
2	the supply chain right now. And 2,000 carloads	2	The rail systems not built to
3	of building materials, plastics, and chemicals.	3	accommodate the massive amount of short to no
4	So to briefly summarize before I turn	4	notice ad hoc layoffs. Also, if we were to
5	over to Melissa to discuss the Unions'	5	hire additional employees over and above just
6	scheduling proposal in greater detail, you can	6	to handle episodic events like holidays,
7	now see what layoffs look like under the	7	sporting events, it would then force us to
8	current state of operations. Now imagine what	8	furlough them during nonpeak times, which would
9	this would look like if any employee had	9	further compound the issue.
10	unrestricted access to 15 days to take whenever	10	In addition to the operational problems
11	they wanted. We have demonstrated that our	11	this would cause, it's unnecessary as both
12	employees are not overworked, and they already	12	operating and nonoperating crafts already have
13	have access to call in and take days off as	13	the ability to lay off sick and generally do
14	demonstrated by the impact we see every	14	not suffer any consequences if they come to
15	weekend. Although our attendance policies were	15	work regularly. We have demonstrated that this
16	designed to help curve this, it is not	16	is already happening with a disproportionate
17	completely eliminated the abuse.	17	amount on weekends.
18	We again expect the Unions' response	18	We again ask the board to consider these
19	that the staffing issues could be solved by	19	impacts and to reject the Unions' proposal.
20	hiring more people. However, as we	20	Because of the high impact to our rail networks
21	demonstrated, it again does not do any good to	21	and the operational costs associated, given the
22	have more employees if those employees are	22	already highly off rates on weekends and

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1	holidays, the Carriers cannot afford even more	
2	scheduled or unscheduled absences.	
3	Thank you for your time. I'll now turn	
4	it over to Melissa. She'll have her	
5	presentation and then we'll conclude with some	
6	remarks and be available for questions.	
7	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Thank you, Mr.	
8	Garland.	
9	BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: So if I have a	
10	question, do I hold for	
11	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: I think, yes, to	
12	hold until they're both done. I'm fine with ?	
13	that.	
14	THEREUPON:	
15	MELISSA BEASLEY-COKE	
16	was called for examination, and, having been	
17	previously duly sworn, testified as follows:	
18	MS. BEASLEY-COKE: Good morning.	
19	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Morning.	
20	MS. BEASLEY-COKE: My name is Melissa	
21	Beasley-Coke. I'm a General Director for Labor	
22	Relations at BNSF Railway. I initially hired	

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	1	on with BNSF in 1998 as a crew caller, which is
	2	a union position working under TCU agreements.
	3	In 2000, I was promoted to the exempt ranks at
	4	BNSF as a crew planner working in Fort Worth,
	5	Texas. And in August of 2001, I joined the
	6	Labor Relations Department.
	7	Over the course of the last 21 years, I
	8	worked primarily with the operating craft
e a	9	agreements, so I have had a few touch points
	10	with nonoperating agreements over the course of
	11	the years. As Matt mentioned, I will be
	12	discussing the Unions' scheduling proposal, as
	13	well as the proposals for additional paid time
	14	off in some more detail.
	15	DLET and Smart TD have proposed a work
	16	rest schedule for all operating craft employees
	17	and unassigned road service that provides
	18	voluntary consecutive days off for all
	19	employees in unassigned service.
	20	In other words, after being available
	21	for some amount of consecutive days, employees
	22	would have the option of taking some amount of

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1	scheduled days off. I'll explain to you why	1	and back to the home terminal, as well as the
2	this proposal is both unworkable and	2	configuration of the pool itself.
3	unnecessary.	3	In addition, implementing a work rest
4	Affording scheduled rest days to all	4	schedule successfully often requires making
5	employees on top of the rest they are already	5	other work changes, work rule changes
6	guaranteed under the Federal Hours of Service	6	simultaneously. And this is not the type of
7	Act would further decrease unavailability	7	thing that can often just be hashed out in
8	exacerbating the staffing challenges that	8	arbitration.
9	Carriers already face on weekends and holidays	9	Some Carriers, including BNSF have been
10	in particular as just discussed by Matt.	10	able to implement work rest schedules for self-
11	To be sure, in some cases the Carriers	11	supporting pools. These are pools in which
12	have been able to implement work rest schedules	12	temporary vacancies are filled first by the
13	for certain pools, but not on the terms	13	people in the pool as opposed to people on the
14	proposed by the Unions. Whether a work rest	14	extra-board. The reason is because these pools
15	schedule can be implemented or what form of	15	operate so much more efficiently than
16	work rest schedule works depends on various	16	traditional pools. Employees in these pools
17	factors.	17	are working more often when they're marked up,
18	For example, the length of the run, the	18	which allows Carriers to afford to have more
19	distance from the home terminal to the away	19	employees laid off or on rest days. You'll
20	from home terminal, the cycle time of the pool,	20	hear more about the benefits of self-supporting
21	the time it takes an employee to get from the	21	pools later today when the Carriers present
22	home terminal to the away from home terminal	22	their off ^^ work rules proposal.

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1	The bottom line is some types of	1	unpredictability to staffing and scheduling
2	unassigned service are better suited to	2	making it even more difficult to ensure
3	accommodate work rest schedules than others.	3	appropriate and reliable customer service.
4	The Unions' one-size-fits-all approach does not	4	In addition to being unworkable, the
5	work. In fact, in all my years of negotiating	5	Unions' voluntary rest day proposal is
6	work rest schedules, that is the one underlying	6	unnecessary. As demonstrated by the work rest
7	theme that often repeats, one size does not fit	7	schedules that are already in existence, the
8	all. Yet that Is what the Unions are seemingly	8	parties have been able to make progress on
9	proposing here.	9	these issues on their own. As a matter of
10	The optional nature of the rest days	10	fact, at BNSF approximately 46 percent of our
11	proposed by the Unions is even a bigger	11	pools, in other words, the service that the
12	problem. When employees have the ability to	12	Unions have characterized as unassigned service
13	choose when they are going to observe the rest	13	have some sort of fatigue mitigation overlay or
14	days and when they are not going to observe the	14	rest days.
15	rest days, there's every reason to believe	15	In addition to those, we will also
16	employees would be more likely to opt out or	16	propose other measures to address the the
17	work on rest days that fell on weekdays leaving	17	Unions' concerns. We have proposed various
18	boards overstaffed. Then they would opt in or	18	fatigue mitigation programs for some extra-
19	observe rest days that fell on weekends or	19	board employees. However, in BNSF case, at
20	holidays when availability's already low.	20	least one of the Unions was not willing to
21	As I previously mentioned, that option	21	engage on these measures unless they were
22	would add yet another element of	22	implemented across the board and on their

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1	terms. In other words, unless all extra-board	1	year.
2	employees could have immediate access to rest	2	The holiday proposal of three additional
3	days, none could have any access.	3	holidays or equivalency of three additional PL
4	As I previously mentioned, these	4	days is estimated to cost the Carriers \$147
5	agreements simply do not work everywhere, are	5	million in a single year. These are not minor
6	not needed everywhere, and certainly do not	6	expenses, and they will only increase over time
7	work under the one-size-fits-all approach	7	as wages continue to increase.
8	proposed by the Unions without other rules	8	In addition to the direct cost I just
9	modifications being made.	9	discussed and the operational disruption they
10	At this point, I'm going to turn to the	10	would cause as described by Matt, there are
11	Unions' proposal for additional paid time off,	11	also other reasons why the board should reject
12	specifically the proposal for the addition of	12	the Unions' paid leave proposals. One of these
13	fifteen paid sick days and three additional	13	reasons is the adequacy of the existing
14	holidays or equivalent three PL days for all	14	benefits.
15	Union employees. These proposals would apply	15	Under current agreements, Union
16	across the board to all union employees both	16	employees are granted paid time off benefits
17	operating craft and nonoperating craft alike.	17	primarily through two methods, vacation time
18	These propositions by the Unions are	18	and personal leave days or paid holidays.
19	costly ones in multiple ways. The estimated	19	Under current agreement, employees
20	cost to the Carriers for the sick leave	20	generally receive anywhere from one to five
21	proposal of fifteen paid sick days for all	21	weeks of paid vacation depending on years of
22	Union employees is \$688 million in a single	22	service. In addition, there are some Union

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1	employees that receive a six-week of vacation	1	In addition, operating craft empl
2	following their 25th or 30th year of service.	2	can usually carry over or bank any ur
3	It is also important to note that	3	personal leave days, accumulate then
4	depending on craft, employees are allowed to	4	them in as a later date as a means to
5	use either one or two weeks of their vacation	5	short-term leaves. In other words, e
6	time in single day increments. This allows	6	can mark off sick and then choose to
7	them to utilize those days if they so choose	7	personal leave day retroactively so th
8	for any short-term day-to-day layoff needs such	8	get paid for that time off. Now as a r
9	as doctors' appointments or short-term	9	they get up to eleven of those per yea
10	illnesses.	10	Nonoperating crafts generally re-
11	In addition to vacation time, all Union	11	to a maximum of either 2 or 3 days o
12	employees are eligible for paid personal leave	12	leave. Again, the amount of personal
13	days based upon qualifying seniority with the	13	received in all cases depends on an e
14	exact amount of days received varying by craft.	14	years of service. It is important to no
15	As indicated by the chart in front of	15	this juncture again that the Carriers'
16	you, operating craft employees generally	16	does include the addition of one perso
17	receive anywhere from 3 to 11 days of personal	17	day for all Union employees.
18	leave. Some may receive slightly more; some	18	Turning to holidays. In lieu of
19	may receive slightly less. But this chart is	19	personal leave days, some railroad er
20	indicative of the seniority progression and	20	generally the assigned operating emp
21	number of days received from the majority of	21	the nonoperating employees are eligil
22	operating craft employees.	22	qualify for eleven holidays per year.
		<u> </u>	

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1	Employees on qualifying jobs receive pay if	1	line with their peers when it comes to paid
2	they do not have to work on the holiday and	2	holidays.
3	receive extra pay if they do have to work on	3	I will now move on to the sickness
4	the holiday so long as they otherwise qualify	4	benefits that exist under current agreements.
5	under the terms of the agreement.	5	As Matt mentioned, operating craft and
6	In addition to the proposal of fifteen	6	nonoperating craft employees can lay off sick
7	paid sick days, the Unions are proposing the	7	and generally will not be disciplined for doing
8	additional of three paid holidays or equivalent	8	so, so long as their overall attendance record
9	PLDs to their existing compliment of eleven.	9	is good. BNSF operating and nonoperating craft
10	Their proposal would add Veteran's Day, Martin	10	employees can lay off with little to no notice,
11	Luther King, Jr. Day, and Juneteenth. It must	11	are not refused layoff, and are not required to
12	be noted that the eleven paid holidays already	12	provide medical documentation of any kind.
13	provided to Union employees exceeds the	13	Whether these absences are paid or
14	benchmarks.	14	unpaid depends on the employee's craft. A few
15	The data on this slide comes from the	15	crafts have paid sick leave, but most have
16	Bureau of Labor Statistics National	16	supplemental sickness benefits.
17	Compensation Survey. It shows that on average	17	In order to understand supplemental
18	Unionized private sector workers across all	18	sickness benefits, we must first talk about the
19	industries average nine paid holidays. And	19	benefits that they supplement, which are those
20	other transportation industry workers average	20	provided under the Railroad Unemployment
21	seven. The Unions' proposal would place	21	Insurance Act or RUIA. All railroad employees
22	railroad workers at 14, which is far out of	22	are covered by RUIA. RUIA provides employees
		1	

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1	with wage replacement at 60 percent of their	1	sick leave and supplemental sickness benefits.
2	daily pay with a maximum daily benefit of \$85 a	2	In fact, going back to the 1970s, the
3	day if the employee is unable to work because	3	majority of the Unions chose to negotiate
4	of sickness or injury. There is a 7-day	4	supplemental sickness benefits as a replacement
5	waiting period for the first claim under RUIA	5	for paid sick leave.
6	with a 4-day waiting period for subsequent	6	Supplemental sickness benefit plans were
7	claims.	7	first established by agreements reached in
8	Employees with less than 10 years of	8	1973. As this slide indicates, in order to
9	service receive normal benefits under RUIA,	9	receive supplemental sickness benefits, the
10	which means they receive those benefits for up	10	Unions agreed that any existing paid sick leave
11	to 26 weeks. Employees with 10 or more years	11	or other sickness benefits would be terminated.
12	of service receive extended benefits, which	12	This particular language comes from the
13	means they're covered for up to an additional	13	Signalmen Agreement, but identical language is
14	65 days.	14	found in other agreements.
15	In addition to RUIA benefits, many	15	For the crafts that have supplemental
16	Unions benefit from either a supplemental	16	sickness benefits as indicated here, employees
17	sickness benefit plan or a paid sick leave	17	receive a higher percentage of pay,
18	plan. The majority of the Unions as you see in	18	approximately 70 percent of their wages for a
19	this slide have opted for a supplemental	19	much longer period of time. 52 weeks instead
20	sickness benefit plan and have bargained for	20	of twenty-six. In addition, benefits increased
21	those planned benefits. It is important to	21	during the second six months to cover then
22	note that virtually no employees have both paid	22	exhausted RUIA benefits.

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	-		-
1	For the crafts that do have sick leave	1	In addition, you will hear from Sam
2	benefits, those sick leave programs vary from	2	Macedonio shortly. The Carriers' attendance
3	carrier to carrier and from craft to craft.	3	policies are structured to allow a reasonable
4	Generally speaking, those who received paid	4	number of absences without disciplinary
5	sick leave are able to use an allotment of days	5	consequences. We also understand that the
6	paid at a bargained for rate. In most cases	6	Unions support their demand for 15 days of paid
7	between 80 percent and 100 percent of the	7	sick leave based on their experiences through
8	employee's regular rate. Normally these	8	the COVID pandemic. That argument is off base
9	employees are also able to bank or accumulate	9	for several reasons.
10	unused sick days from year to year for later	10	First, any additional need for benefits
11	use or cash them in.	11	accommodations or sick leave during the
12	It is also important to reiterate that	12	pandemic was met by the Carriers both
13	even when an employee may not miss enough work	13	voluntarily and as a function of federal law.
14	to qualify for RUIA or supplemental sickness	14	During the COVID pandemic, the RUIA waiting
15	benefits, employees can still get compensated	15	period for an initial claim was lowered from 7
16	for lost time due to illness. They can	16	days to 4 days. BNSF for example decided on
17	substitute single day of vacation or personal	17	its own that it would pay employees for those
18	leave day retroactively. And as I previously	18	first four day of illness before the RUIA and
19	mentioned, operating craft employees have the	19	SSB plan benefits kicked in. Other Carriers
20	ability to bank unused personal leave days with	20	took different approaches.
21	the ability to cash them in for just such	21	Generally speaking, the Carriers did not
22	occasions.	22	charge employees for any COVID-related absences
		1	

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	-	
1	under their attendance policies despite many	1
2	employees having several COVID-related	2
3	absences. At BNSF for example, we had	3
4	employees who had up to eighteen separate	4
5	period of absence, which they said was due to	5
6	COVID-related exposure or illness. While the	6
7	Unions might now say the Carriers didn't do	7
8	enough, that simply isn't true.	8
9	My last point is that although	9
10	additional paid time off on its face would seem	10
11	to be a universally positive thing for	11
12	employees themselves, it also has some negative	12
13	effects, which might not be obvious from just	13
14	looking at the proposals.	14
15	When the Carriers are unable to fill a	15
16	vacancy through the extra-board, they must	16
17	resort to running rosters or canvasing, which	17
18	is a process of calling employees for extra	18
19	work in an order established by the agreements.	19
20	BNSF regularly received complaints from the	20
21	Unions and from employees alike about the	21
22	frequency of these calls saying they are	22

disruptive to employee's sleep and family life. As a former crew caller, I have personally fielded many such calls and been faced with angry spouses when placing these calls in the middle of the night. Here are the sorts of complaints we receive on a regular basis.

This is an employee from Galesburg, Illinois who works in a pool that normally has a 48-hour rest cycle at home. He cites that employees who would normally have a 48-hour rest cycle in his pool are now being called after 10 hours. It interrupts sleep, doctor's appointments, family plans, etc. Personally, I have been called eight times in one night to jump up. The reason he's called eight times in one night to jump up is because other employees at his terminal have laid off.

The frequency of these calls would only increase with additional unscheduled layoffs like the sick leave proposal by the Unions and the increased unavailability that would result

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1	from the employees having optional rest days.	1	at this point I'm going to turn it back over to
2	This means even more disruption to off duty	2	Matt for some closing comments.
3	employees and less predictability about when	3	MR. GARLAND: Thank you, Melissa.
4	they'll be called to work.	4	So in closing, I want to thank all of
5	In addition, optional rest days could	5	our employees across the entire industry, and
6	leave to overstaffing on other days resulting	6	specifically from me to the employees at BNSF
7	in fewer work opportunities for employees on	7	for their hard work and dedication.
8	those days. Keep in mind that when one	8	We know that being a railroader is a
9	employee calls out sick, another employee must	9	higher calling, and I'm extremely proud of the
10	pick up that slack. Given the specific nature	10	entire team for what we have accomplished and
11	of the Unions' proposal, requesting that	11	what we're going to do in the future. However,
12	employees be allowed to use sick leave on	12	the Unions' paid leave and schedule proposal
13	demand without any effect on their attendance	13	should be withdrawn. The existing benefits our
14	record, it is inevitable that some employees	14	employees have provide ample opportunity for
15	will abuse that sick leave, using it on	15	time off and adding additional days off to be
16	weekends and holidays when as Matt indicated	16	used unrestricted will have a significant
17	staffing is already tight. That net result of	17	impact to the rail industry and the nation's
18	that is that other employees who play by the	18	economy as a whole. The direct cost of this
19	rules will be forced to work at times when they	19	paid leave proposal is exorbitant, and the
20	would rather be home with their families. That	20	operational impacts are unsustainable.
21	isn't fair to them.	21	So with that, thank you Mr. Chairman and
22	I want to thank you for your time. And	22	Board, and that concludes our presentation.
	Page 756		Page 757
1	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Thank you, both.	1	approve that personal leave day request. If it
2	Did you have a question you wanted to pose?	2	does not approve the personal leave day
3	BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: My question is	3	request, they can then call their supervisor,
4	just about personal leave days. Do those days	4	explain their situation, and see if their
5	need advanced scheduling, advanced notice,	5	supervisor will approve the personal leave day.
6	advanced approval?	6	If that doesn't work, then they of course can
7	MS. BEASLEY-COKE: If they want to take	7	lay off sick.
8	personal leave days, yes. For operating craft	8	BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: All right.
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personal leave days, yes. For operating craft employees, they can get those approved anywhere from 4 hours -- as close to 4 hours prior to going on duty. BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: My question is: What does a person do if they wake up sick and

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what does a person do if they wake up sick and they can't go to work, and they have no notice of it? MS. BEASLEY-COKE: So the process would

be they can put in -- if it's more than 4 hours before they're due to be called for work, they can put in for a personal leave day. And our systems are built so that it will look at the scheduling demands of that day. And if we have allocations available, it will automatically

BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: All right. Thank you.

MR. GARLAND: I would also add, if you refer back to the discussion I had about --BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: I'm sorry.

Could you talk into the microphone. I can't hear you.

MR. GARLAND: Yeah, sure. Can you hear now? Is that better? Okay.

If you refer back to the presentation where we discussed employees and unassigned service, they have forty contractual days off on average, and then they're taking another eighty-one ad hoc days off. Those ad hoc days off would be in laying off sick, or if you woke

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1	up sick, you could lay off sick in that manner.	1	recently as a result of either the numbers of
2	So that would be outside that PLD process that	2	employees that are on payroll or scheduling
3	was just discussed.	3	methods on the part of the trains or anything
4	BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: Thank you.	4	else?
5	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: I've got just a few	5	MR. GARLAND: Not to my knowledge, no.
6	for clarification if I may. I'd like to start	6	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Okay. The second
7	with the question about the unavailability	7	question: If the proposal that you have with
8	issues that you've identified in your	8	respect to changing the way that the pools and
9	presentation.	9	the boards and bidding operates is agreed to,
10	Are those long-standing in nature or	10	or implemented otherwise, will that cause any
11	have they been exacerbated in recent years?	11	adverse effect on pay for any employees or
12	That's the first question.	12	groups of employees? In short, is there some
13	MR. GARLAND: I would say that they are	13	negative pay effect that comes along with the
14	long-standing issues that we've seen	14	other positives that at least from your end
15	historically in the rail industry. And as Sam	15	that you've identified?
16	Macedonio will discuss in the presentation on	16	MR. GARLAND: I would probably just let
17	our attendance policies, I think he'll be able	17	the experts handle that in their testimony
18	to clarify a little bit about what we see and	18	later on this morning. They will be addressing
19	how we're designing our policy to try and	19	those proposals in detail.
20	flatten that out.	20	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Fair enough. Didn't
21	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: This is not	21	mean to anticipate.
22	something though that's increased in severity	22	MR. GARLAND: Nope. No, that was a good
	Page 760		Page 761
1	question. Thank you.	1	we displayed were in aggregate, and that's a
2	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: And the third one is	2	known average at BNSF. And then my Carrier
3	just quantitative if you have it. You	3	average, we can certainly follow-up and get you
4	indicated, I believe, that the hours that you	4	the overtime breakout and how that works.
5	depicted on the slides and reviewed with us did	5	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: And the second
6	not include hours away from home, did not	6	question: Do you track the hours from home
7	include on-call hours as well; is that correct?	7	away from home?
8	MR. GARLAND: That is correct.	8	MR. GARLAND: Yes, sir, we do. And BNSF
9	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: And did they include	9	our average away from home terminal hours is
10	overtime hours?	10	sixteen.
11	MR. GARLAND: They would have included	11	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: sixteen?
12	the amount of hours in overtime, yes, sir.	12	MR. GARLAND: Correct.
13	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: So let me follow-up	13	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: And the third
14	just briefly on those three categories, if I	14	question is: The on-call hours for those who
15	may.	15	are on call, is that tracked as well?
16	With respect to overtime hours, and I'm	16	MR. GARLAND: That would be counted in
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just simply trying to get a feel for the

operation as well as the flip side of that,

available time. And yes, that is tracked as

could also follow-up with that.

well. I don't have that specific number. We

CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: That's fine. I was

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limiting this to the operating crafts, because

for the year, is there an average number of

overtime hours that your operating craft

employees worked in that year?

that was the focus there. If we looked at 2021 $% \left({\left({{{\left({{{\left({{{\left({{{c}}} \right)}} \right)}} \right)}_{0}}} \right)}_{0}} \right)$

MR. GARLAND: So the average hours that

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1	which is the impact on employees.	1	THEREUPON:
2	MR. GARLAND: Absolutely.	2	SAM MACEONIO
3	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Fair enough.	3	was called for examination, and, after being
4	MR. GARLAND: And the away from home	4	duly sworn, testified as follows:
5	terminal hours are very important to us as I	5	MR. MACEDONIO: Good morning, Mr.
6	mentioned in the testimony about it's in our	6	Chairman and Members of the Panel. My name is
7	both best interest to limit that amount of time	7	Sam Macedonio. I'm the AVP of Labor Relations
8	both from a productivity standpoint and getting	8	at BNSF Railroad. I've been in that position
9	the employees back to their home terminals.	9	for four years. During my four years there I
10	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: I understood the	10	was primarily responsible for the operating
11	explanation. Fair enough. Thank you both very	11	crafts. However, over the last six months I've
12	much.	12	picked up some of the responsibility for
13	MR. GARLAND: Thank you.	13	nonoperating crafts.
14	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: We good? We're	14	Prior to that, I spent 12 years at CSX
15	done. Thank you.	15	Railroad where I held director roles and the
16	MR. MUNRO: Mr. Chairman, our next	16	AVP for all crafts accept for engineering and
17	witness is Sam Macedonio who's Assistant Vice-	17	mechanical. And prior to that I spent 10 years
18	President of Labor Relations at BNSF. He'll be	18	at Metropolitan Transportation Authority of New
19	addressing the attendance questions.	19	York City where I had the pleasure of operating
20	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: May I ask the	20	handling all crafts there and actually
21	reporter to please swear in Mr. Macedonio.	21	working with Metro North and Long Island
22		22	Railroad under PEB 240 and 241.
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1	Over my 24 years I've had the pleasure	1	railroads that have an agreement for the
2	of working with most or a lot of the	2	attendance policies. They are all policies.
3	individuals over my shoulder to the left, and	3	So just to start with the attendance
4	we have discussed many proposals. Today I'm	4	policies currently at the carrier. Many of
5	going to talk to you about, one, the operating	5	them are similar. All of them were the result
6	craft's attendance proposal; two, our Carriers'	6	of an evolutionary process over the past twenty
7	current attendance policies, and then I'm going	7	plus years. When I started my career 24 years
8	to sum up with a response to the current	8	ago, many people said you know an attendance
9	proposal made by the Unions.	9	violation when you see it. Those led to issues
10	First I would refer you to the actual	10	at arbitration and eventually we worked through
11	attendance made in their submission. It's	11	more comprehensive policies that set
12	three main parts. First, abolish all	12	expectations for our employees.
13	attendance policies currently on all the Class	13	As a result of that, they did evolve
14	I railroads.	14	into unilaterally promulgated policies, which
15	Two, they want the right to bargain	15	were upheld in arbitration after multiple
16	over, but not the obligation to reach or ratify	16	challenges on multiple roads. All of them have
17	an agreement changing the attendance policy.	17	a way of allowing an employee to, one, know
18	And three, they would like to keep all	18	what's expected of them; two, a way to do take
19	more generous policies or agreements that are	19	reasonable mark-offs. Most of them have a
20	out there.	20	reset or a way to earn some points back in the
21	The third one we are confused about	21	case of a point system. And then they are all
22	because we're not aware of any Class I	22	subject to progressive discipline.

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1	As I said before, all of these policies	1	Unfortunately, over those two years, we
2	except for the high Hi-Viz, which is BNSF's	2	were unable to release or agree to anything.
3	newest policy have been challenged by the	3	They had very few suggestions except for some
4	Unions, and all of them were upheld as	4	of the things you saw in their presentation or
5	reasonable and the right to unilaterally	5	probably see in their presentation, which was
6	implement them was upheld as well. We do not	6	to hire more people.
7	believe BNSF's will be any different.	7	At that point we realizing we had a
8	When it comes to the BNSF Hi-Viz policy,	8	problem seeing that some of the charts we would
9	we had a policy that was in place prior to that	9	dip to 37 percent availability on any given day
10	for about 20 years. Over that 20 years as Matt	10	and could not run trains. We decided to
11	mentioned, we had certain issues revolve really	11	benchmark against the industry and other
12	on daily availability as a hole, but especially	12	non-industry policies. We decided to come up
13	spikes on weekends and holidays.	13	with a new policy. Part of the policy, we also
14	We engaged our Unions approximately two	14	looked at past complaints. And over the years,
15	years before we implemented Hi-Viz asking them	15	the Unions had made several complaints, and so
16	for possible solutions, tweaks to our current	16	had employees, that our current policies were,
17	existing policy or other scheduling changes	17	one, onerous; two, unclear; and three, harsh.
18	that would be made to increase availability.	18	And let me unpack that a little bit.
19	Matt and his team showed our Union	19	The policies prior to Hi-Viz, there was
20	representatives many of the same slides you saw	20	not just one policy. We had an attendance
21	here today, which outlined what our policy	21	policy, which like I said gave you a number of
22	problems were.	22	days off before you were in violation. But
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1	that changed if you were assigned or	1	We came up with the current policy, Hi-
2	unassigned, and it really had a threshold that	2	Viz. Here's a high-level review of that. This
3	could change daily, and that confused a lot of	3	indicates the points that you will get when you
4	employees and was subject to a lot of	4	take off or an employee gets off. And you'll
5	arbitration.	5	see unassigned and assigned service. The
6	We also had a high impact day policy,	6	assigned service are individuals who work
7	which if you took off more than six, seven of	7	yards, locals, road switchers who have a more
8	high impact days, which is Christmas, Mother's	8	traditional five days' work, two days off.

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1	that changed if you were assigned or	1
2	unassigned, and it really had a threshold that	2
3	could change daily, and that confused a lot of	3
4	employees and was subject to a lot of	4
5	arbitration.	5
6	We also had a high impact day policy,	6
7	which if you took off more than six, seven of	7
8	high impact days, which is Christmas, Mother's	8
9	Day, Super Bowl, you would then have a	9
10	standalone discipline event for that.	10
11	We also had a low performance policy	11
12	where if you were in the bottom 10 or 15	12
13	percent of your peers at your location, you	13
14	also had a standalone discipline event.	14
15	And then last, but not least, if you	15
16	missed a call or had a no-show, that was also a	16
17	standalone discipline event.	17
18	So we took the complaints about all	18
19	those policies and tried to roll them into one	19
20	workable policy that was, one, transparent;	20
21	two, helped us with our needs of service; and	21
22	three, treated our employees fairly.	22

They include jobs where we have assigned rest, something that Melissa spoke about where you have a 6 and 3 for instance. You have six starts, and then you're able to take three starts off. That's on your assigned service side. And then the unassigned are those pools, the other 53 percent of our pools which don't have assigned rest days.

And if you notice what's interesting here is that the employees had a lot of negativity and so did our Union representatives about this policy. But when we promulgated the policy, one of the things we were looking at is employees had long said they needed to be off

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1	during the weekdays to attend school events	1	I'll talk about a little bit later, but the
2	with their children and go to doctor's	2	first one is this individual worked a high
3	appointments during the week.	3	impact day, got a point back, so he worked
4	If you look at the unassigned service	4	probably July 4th. That is July 4th. He
5	here, this allows you approximately 15 days off	5	worked July 4th. And then he also worked a
6	prior to violating the policy for the first	6	weekend day the next weekend and he got another
7	time. And that doesn't even include the point	7	point back.
8	deductions you'll get for recognition points	8	So on the left-hand side of that slide
9	and good attendance credits. And that's very	9	you'll see the gas gauge, which is just a
10	similar to the paid leave policy the Unions are	10	representation of what's on the right-hand side
11	asking for.	11	to make it a little bit clearer. We want
12	So along the lines of transparency,	12	employees to stay fifteen points or above, so
13	here's what the employees will see. Every	13	they have days to take off in case of an
14	employee in the workforce hub, which Judy and	14	emergency.
15	Matt had also mentioned has a dashboard in it	15	And then on the top of that there's
16	which talks about your attendance. It shows	16	another green line, which says 7/25/22, 8:06,
17	you on the right-hand side all of the events	17	and that's the date that that individual will
18	that you've been involved in. Vacation	18	have 14 days of service where he has either
19	obviously the first one, no points. Laid off	19	been marked up or have rest days. It's a
20	sick, minus four points. Must have been a	20	string of days where they were available, and
21	Friday. Another layoff sick on three. And	21	they'll get points back.
22	then you'll see recognition points, which again	22	So just to demonstrate how the system

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1	does work. You do get certain point deductions	1	help. We went to court and the courts decided
2	from your thirty points where you start. And	2	that this was in fact a minor dispute and had
3	then as you either get recognition points or	3	to be worked out through arbitration. Since
4	stay marked up for a period of 14 days, you	4	then, at BNSF at least, while we've met with
5	earn points back.	5	the Unions to discuss the issue, they have not
6	So in this case, if an employee were to	6	filed any arbitrations to date or progressed it
7	take off Friday sick, it deducts. He then	7	towards arbitration.
8	works 14 days or not works. He's been	8	Before I move on, during this point in
9	available for 14 days, which could include rest	9	time when the Union was challenging this in
10	days. It also can include smart rest. BNSF	10	court, it was pretty implementation. We rolled
11	and many of the Carriers have smart rest where	11	this out approximately 15 days to 20 days prior
12	if you feel fatigued after your shift, you can	12	to actually making it the policy so employees
13	ask for smart rest, which gives you an extra 14	13	could see how their behavior was impacting it.
14	hours off. So you'd have 24 hours without	14	During that time, all of us, Matt and I and my
15	working before your next shift. And once that	15	team, and BNSF as a whole had thousands of e-
16	14 days hits, your point balance is replenished	16	mails, inquiries through our internal hub
17	to thirty points.	17	systems, as well as phone calls. I've even
18	So when we rolled this out, being all of	18	picked up a few pen pals since based on this,
19	our Union representatives had strong objection	19	and they had a lot of good ideas on how we
20	to it. As you can see here, we wound up in	20	could make this program better.
21	court because they said the policy was	21	So when we rolled it out on February
22	outrageous. They wanted to engage in self-	22	1st, we did make some minor tweaks to it. We

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1	then told them we were going to wait 90 days to	1	distracted out there on the rails thinking
2	see where this would all wind up and make	2	about what's next in their attendance. We want
3	further tweaks, which we did. The biggest part	3	them to be able to manage their attendance.
4	we got back feedback from our employees is	4	And that's what all railroad point systems are
5	that while this set parameters for those	5	really about and most of their attendance
6	employees that they felt did not want to work	6	systems are about.
7	and be full-time employees, it did not reward	7	Additionally, which we're very happy
8	those who did. So we put a system and series	8	about as well. Fifteen less employees or
9	of recognition points in like the holidays,	9	ten less employees have been dismissed over
10	like the weekends, top 10 percent, all of those	10	that same period of time for attendance-related
11	individuals earned points back, and that has	11	violations. And this is out of our
12	been received very favorably.	12	approximately 15,000 employees. You'll see in
13	Another outcropping of this which we	13	some of our numbers we say we have roughly
14	hoped for, and it has come true was that	14	14,500 employees, but on the TY&E side we have
15	discipline has been reduced dramatically. So	15	about 890 employees on any given day that are
16	over the last five months of this program,	16	off medical leave or long-term personal leave,
17	we've reduced discipline. And that means a	17	which is a benefit we offer over and above the
18	notice being served on an individual telling	18	Collective Bargaining Agreement.
19	them that they have to come to a hearing to	19	As you can see here, and I believe this
20	address their attendance. Those have been	20	is similar with all the roads that have point
21	reduced by about nine hundred. We believe	21	systems, there are ways to earn points back.
22	that's very important. We don't want people	22	This is BNSF's version, the recognition points.

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1	And just since June 1st, 63,000 recognition	1	good attendance credits.
2	points have been earned by our employees.	2	And even though that this was portrayed
3	There's a lot of employees out there working	3	as an unworkable, outrageous policy, as you can
4	hard, working for these points, so they can	4	see, 83 percent of our employees are still in
5	gain these points. We've lifted the cap above	5	the green. And if you remember that gas gauge
6	30, so they can go to thirty-seven. And then	6	or meter on the left-hand side of that one
7	they can use those points to take days off when	7	slide, that's fifteen points or more in their
8	they need to when their sick, when they're	8	bank, which they can use when they need days
9	tired, when they want to go to a school event,	9	off.
10	any of those things.	10	Another piece of this is very important
11	You can see we also gave out 15,000	11	to us. Matt talked a little bit about our
12	or 1,500 top performers. That's the top 10	12	employee engagement and how we try to be fair
13	percent of our employees at any given terminal.	13	to our employees. We believe this policy is
14	Those individuals were rewarded their first	14	fair. We set it up that way. And as you can
15	points here in July for their activity in June.	15	see by these individual boxes along the bottom
16	Again, we thought this has really had some	16	that COVID was one thing. There's no points
17	great benefits for all our employees.	17	for COVID. If you mark off COVID, whether it
18	As far as the good attendance credits,	18	was close contact or actually being sick, those
19	15,000 good attendance credits have been earned	19	days whether they were 5 or 10 or 14, all those
20	since the implementation of the policy. And	20	days, none of them have received points.
21	10,000 of our employees remember, out of the	21	Additionally, while this spring has been
22	14,500 active employees, 10,000 have multiple	22	relatively mild as far as weather events on our

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1	network, we did have 225 individuals who were	1	they're having many more conversations with
2	unable to get to work either via closed	2	their supervisors. And we're able to get them
3	highways. Couldn't get out of their driveway,	3	either into personal leaves, medical leaves, in
4	flooding, bridges out. While the system works	4	contact with EAP or our FMLA Department to
5	in the background automatically and would give	5	handle those things that should be handled in a
6	them points, their supervisors then go in and	6	different way. Under our old policy, we often
7	remove those points due to those extenuating	7	found out many of those circumstances after we
8	circumstances, as well as just hundreds of	8	charged an employee and there was an appeal
9	individuals who got in a car accident, had a	9	from the Union. So I think that's been another
10	wife hospitalized while they would be away from	10	thing that we've been very happy with.
11	home terminal, kid went to the emergency room,	11	During the STB hearing, I think some
12	something like that. What's happened is,	12	people here have talked about that, the Unions
13	again, it rolls in the background. They call	13	have indicated, and I know many people have
14	in sick or miss a call. The system gives them	14	touched on this, but they indicated that we've
15	points. They interact with their supervisor.	15	lost thousands of employees due to this new
16	Their supervisor calls Labor Relations, because	16	attendance policy, and the facts just do not
17	we house the Hi-Viz policy, and we remove those	17	support that.
18	points for them.	18	As you can see in this slide here, 395
19	Another piece of this that's really	19	employees have resigned since the
20	worked well for us, and it was unintended	20	implementation of Hi-Viz, and obviously it's
21	consequence, but we're happy about is that	21	not thousands. One of things here is when we
22	individuals now see their points real-time and	22	implemented this new program, our average TY&E
		1	

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1	employee in 2022 works approximately 33 hours a
2	week. We hoped that these individuals on your
3	right-hand side, the twenty-two employees, we
4	hoped that they would change their behavior and
5	become what we could consider more full-time
6	employees; come up to that 33 percent. Most of
7	these individuals we've reviewed, all 395, my
8	team took a look at to determine what they were
9	doing and how they were working 22 hours and
10	still not violating the current policies or the
11	existing policies. And many of them were using
12	contractual days off into with combined with
13	contractual time such as 48 hours on the bump
14	board, which I think Scott and Jacob will talk
15	about a little bit here, and different ways to
16	stay out of work or avoid work. And I believe
17	this policy, we hoped they would change their
18	behavior and work up to those 33 hours. They
19	chose unfortunately to resign.
20	Like everybody has mentioned before, our
21	employees do have many ways to take off. We
22	have both paid leave, which is vacations and

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F	personal leave days. And then there's many
ι	unpaid leave ways off. So obviously like I
i	ndicated before, you could have fourteen
I,	ayoffs without any good attendance credit or
r	recognition points under our current policy if
У	ou're an unassigned service without violating
t	he policy. Many of our employees have rest
c	lays. All of our yard, local and road
s	switchers have rest days. Forty-six percent of
c	our pools have access to rest, which means if
t	hey would like to take off after four starts,
c	or five starts, or six starts, depending on
t	hat pool, they have the ability to take rest
c	lays of two to three rest days.
	There's also RSIA where no employee,
c	bbviously you guys are aware, can work more
t	han six days in a row and then or cannot be
c	called or disturbed within 10 hours after their
s	shift. They have 12 weeks of FMLA. And then
I	ike I said, there's 899 people at BNSF at
ŀ	east on medical leave and personal leave,
v	which is either you submit a doctor's note to

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1	your supervisor, or you work with your	1	before under our old policy where there were
2	supervisor to say, hey, I have something going	2	guardrails, we still had significant issues.
3	on in my life. I'm going to need up to six	3	To remove all guardrails I believe would have a
4	months off. And we have 899 people out of that	4	significant operational impact causing train
5	15,000 in that bucket as well.	5	delays, annulments and the like.
6	And in response and in conclusion, I	6	As for the remedy, as you can see in
7	would like to talk about the operative crafts'	7	their policy, here we are in the 11th hour, or
8	proposal. It's probably the shortest part of	8	in their submission we're in the 11th hour and
9	my presentation, or it is definitely the	9	there's still no viable alternative. To
10	shortest part, and that's because we don't	10	suggest that we could bargain that in short
11	really have a lot of information about it. It	11	fashion and get something on the books, that
12	wasn't something we really bargained about, and	12	would be fair to both the needs of service and
13	as you can see through the actual proposal	13	our employees would be very difficult. I'm
14	itself, there's not a lot there. The	14	always optimistic, but very, very difficult. I
15	operational cost would be significant. Like I	15	believe that's unworkable.
16	said, I've worked for four railroads now, and	16	And third, the policy's just
17	over 24 years in labor relations, every single	17	unjustified. As you can see by what we've
18	one of them has had a policy in place.	18	presented over the last day and a half, there
19	Guardrails, you know, asking employees to come	19	is no evidence that our policies on BNSF or any
20	or outlining what a full-time employee would	20	of the other railroads really needs to be
21	be. To remove those guardrails would be	21	fixed. Our employees are not overworked, have
22	catastrophic. Even as we just talked about	22	plenty of access to rest days. As many
		1	

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	2	
1	arbitrators have ruled on both CSX and UP and	1
2	other roads, their policies in place are fair	2
3	and reasonable the way they're put together.	3
4	So with that, I believe that we hope	4
5	that you reject the Unions' proposal in its	5
6	entirety. With that, I conclude my remarks and	6
7	would take questions.	7
8	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Thank you, Mr.	8
9	Macedonio. I think we're in good shape. Thank	9
10	you very much.	10
11	MR. MACEDONIO: Okay. Thank you.	11
12	MR. MUNRO: Mr. Chairman, I believe we	12
13	have got about 45 minutes left for our case in	13
14	chief. Two more sets of witnesses. The first	14
15	is another pair of witnesses. It's Scott	15
16	Weaver and Jacob Elium from Norfolk Southern	16
17	who are going to discuss the Carriers' job	17
18	assignment proposal.	18
19	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Thank you, Mr.	19
20	Munro. May I ask the reporter to please swear	20
21	in the witnesses.	21
22		22

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1	THEREUPON:
2	SCOTT WEAVER
3	was called for examination, and, after being
4	duly sworn, testified as follows:
5	MR. WEAVER: Good morning.
6	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Good morning.
7	MR. WEAVER: Good morning. I'm Scott
8	Weaver. I represent Norfolk Southern on the
9	National Carrier's Conference Committee. I've
10	been involved directly in the last three rounds
11	of national bargaining, and I have 30 years of
12	experience with Norfolk Southern almost
13	entirely in labor relations.
14	Today Jacob and I are going to talk to
15	you about our improved approached job
16	assignments. Our improved approach for job
17	assignments as you have heard is retaining
18	employees. It offers solutions that address
19	many of the issues that have been raised over
20	the last couple of days and they're impacting
21	or service and our employees. These are
22	solutions that Jacob and I know work. We've

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		1	
1	seen the benefits	1	day-to-day impact of the approach we are
2	BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: I'm sorry.	2	proposing today as opposed to the legacy job
3	Could you maybe move the mic a little closer to	3	filling procedures that NS must still abide by
4	you.	4	for our conductor employees.
5	MR. WEAVER: Yeah, sure. Sorry. Is	5	He and I are passionate about this
6	that better.	6	proposal because we've seen it work. To make
7	BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: And speak	7	the operation more efficient and at the same
8	slowly. Thank you.	8	time improve the quality of life of our
9	MR. WEAVER: These solutions are ones	9	employees. There are three principles that
10	that Jacob and I know work. We've seen the	10	drive the improvement, and these are simple and
11	benefit, their successful implementation with	11	straightforward.
12	our engineer workforce on Norfolk Southern. I	12	First, reduce unscheduled and
13	was the lead negotiator for NS when we	13	unpredictable time off. You've already heard
14	negotiated and implement our revamped approach	14	some about the impact of that. Increased
15	to job assignments with the BLAP in 2015. That	15	scheduled and predictable time off and spread
16	agreement incorporated all of the concepts that	16	time off more evenly throughout the week.
17	we propose today.	17	Instituting a system that adheres to
18	Mr. Elium in his various roles with	18	these principles produces significant benefits
19	Norfolk Southern and labor relations, human	19	that accrue both to employees and the operation
20	resources, running the crew management center,	20	of the railroad.
21	and now in marketing has had the unique	21	Employees are given visibility into
22	opportunity to see the drastically different	22	their schedule, stability in that schedule, and

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	-	
1	the ability to adjust that schedule to	1
2	accommodate events in their personal life.	2
3	Employees are able to maximize their earnings,	3
4	work is shifted from less desirable and less	4
5	productive jobs to more desirable and more	5
6	productive jobs. It improves the ability to	6
7	adjust to changing operational and customer	7
8	service needs. And finally, it produces the	8
9	stability in the workforce that tempers the	9
10	boom-and-bust hiring cycle that we've all	10
11	become too familiar with.	11
12	As you have heard, there are three	12
13	separate components. You see them on the	13
14	screen to our proposal. Those work best	14
15	together, but they each stand on their own	15
16	merits as well and they have their own	16
17	independent value. We will talk in detail	17
18	about each of the components. And Mr. Elium	18
19	and I will speak to our experience with	19
20	implementing them on NS. But we also want to	20
21	emphasize, we are not proposing a one-size-	21
22	fits-all solution, but we are proposing that	22

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1	the board recommend a framework that then could
2	be taken to each individual property for the
3	parties there to work out what works best for
4	them within that framework.
5	Before we delve into the proposal, we
6	think it's important to understand the
7	difficulties of the traditional legacy process
8	of awarding jobs, which is still in place for
9	most of the industry, causes both for the
0	railroads, the employees, and ultimately the
1	customers.
2	I know you've heard some about this
.3	already but let me emphasize a few key points
4	about the cascading impact on the workforce
5	when an employee changes jobs. That happens in
6	two main ways, bidding, and bumping. When a
7	job becomes vacant or a new job is established,
8	that job is advertised to the workforce and
9	employees bid on it. It is awarded based on
0	seniority. Of course then the successful
1	bidder to that job, their job becomes vacant,
2	and that job is advertised. And the process

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1	repeats again until there is no longer a vacant	1
2	job.	2
3	A similar, but even more problematic	3
4	scenario unfolds when an employee is afforded	4
5	the contractual right to change jobs, and that	5
6	can be for any number of reasons. For example,	6
7	a customer service requirement changes the off	7
8	days or the start time of the assignment. In	8
9	that event, the employee has what is called a	9
10	displacement right, which allows that employee	10
11	to claim the job of any employee who is junior	11
12	to him or her creating the subsequent	12
13	displacement right for the employee whose job	13
14	was claimed by the senior employee.	14
15	This changed displacement continues and	15
16	cascades through the seniority roster, but	16
17	that's not the whole story. Employees who are	17
18	displaced do not have to make the decision of	18
19	what job to claim immediately. You heard Sam	19
20	mention typically they have 48 hours, sometimes	20
21	longer to make the decision of what job to	21
22	claim. But even that does not encompass the	22

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21

22

1	artificial unavailability caused when changes
2	in job assignments occur and how that ripples
3	through the workforce is somewhat intuitive.
4	Jacob is going to walk you through the data
5	that highlights the magnitude of the issue and
6	the impact that it has on the availability of
7	employees and the predictability of their
8	schedules.
9	THEREUPON:
10	JACOB ELIUM
11	was called for examination, and, having been
12	previusly duly sworn, testified as follows:
13	MR. ELIUM: Thank you, Scott.
14	In my previous role overseeing the crew
15	management operations at Norfolk Southern, and
16	in my current customer facing role in
17	marketing, I've seen firsthand how impactful
18	displacement time is to the T&E workforce that
19	carries operations and ultimately the
20	customers. It all comes down to unscheduled
21	unavailability.
22	As the pie chart on the left side of

full period during which they're unavailable for service, because they must be formally notified that they've been displaced. And under most agreements, that requires a phone call which the employee must answer to be told that they have been displaced. Modern technological solutions are generally not permitted. We cannot send a text message. We can't send an e-mail. We can't leave a voice message on the phone. These procedures can take days and sometimes weeks to complete the process of placing employees on their new assignments. These changes are not happening in a vacuum. At the same time, for example, employees are going on planned vacation, trying to schedule personal leave days, all of which creates additional movement between jobs. The end result is that the workforce is in a near constant state of flux and both employee lives, and the railroad operation are disrupted. While I think the impact of this type of

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1	this slide shows, over a quarter of our total
2	unavailability is unscheduled, 27 percent. As
3	you can see on the bar chart on the right, the
4	largest component of this block of unscheduled
5	time off is displacement time representing 45
6	percent of all the unscheduled unavailability.
7	Given that the next two categories, next
8	two largest categories of unscheduled
9	unavailability are sick and FMLA leave, the
10	elimination displacement time is the only
11	realistic opportunity we have to reduce the
12	unscheduled unavailability.
13	As you can see on this slide, the
14	problems caused by displacement time are not
15	unique to Norfolk Southern. There are over
16	200,000 displacements in 2021 on these three
17	railroads alone. Each displacement was
18	unpredictable. Each displacement was
19	disruptive to both the employees getting
20	displaced and to the Carrier trying to plan

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operations around a predictable workforce.

To get an idea of how impactful

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1	displacement time is, we quantified the full-	1	the time it takes the employee to exercise to a
2	time equivalent and productivity that was lost	2	new position.
3	due to displacement time on Norfolk Southern in	3	Over a four-year period on Union Pacific
4	2021. These numbers only include conductor	4	it took this graph, sorry, shows over a
5	displacement times, because on Norfolk	5	four-year period on Union Pacific the time it
6	Southern, we already have an automated bid	6	took to notify employees of their displacement.
7	system for engineers.	7	As you can see, the displacement time was
8	The average conductor displacement in	8	substantially higher Fridays through Saturdays.
9	2021 for Norfolk Southern lasted 1.2 days.	9	Fridays through Saturdays as previously
10	This means there were over 39,000 days lost to	10	mentioned also happened to be the time when
11	displacements. If we assume the average train	11	other forms of unscheduled time off such as
12	engine employee received 194 starts per year,	12	sick and FMLA leave are the highest. And to no
13	this equates to lost productivity of about two	13	surprise, that Friday through Sunday are also
14	hundred full-time conductors. Once again, this	14	the time where the crew management center
15	does not include engineers, because engineers	15	receives the most request for vacation and
16	already have an automated bid system.	16	personal leave day.
17	The unavailability attributed to	17	Displacement time runs in direct
18	displacement is a function of two things.	18	conflict with the Carriers' ability to provide
19	First, as Scott previously mentioned, the time	19	train engine employees with more access to
20	between when an employee is displaced and when	20	their paid time off when they want it the most
21	they actually answer the phone to take the call	21	on the weekends.
22	for notification of the displacement. And two,	22	We will now explain the automated bid

Dago 706

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1	scheduling process and how this system fixes	1	employees access to their preferred jobs, but
2	many of these issues.	2	it happens not over an unpredictable period of
3	MR. WEAVER: So what is an automatic bid	3	days or weeks, but all at once, and without an
4	system? Essentially what it means is we're	4	outside negative impact on junior employees.
5	using technology to implement the commonsense	5	Employees can see all the jobs that are
6	solution to an issue that every business large	6	available to them, choose their preferences,
7	or small faces. How to schedule your staff to	7	know with certainty that they will remain on
8	balance the needs of the business with its	8	their new assignment for a standardized
9	employees' personal needs. This requires	9	predetermined period of time. And at the end
10	taking into account preferences of individual	10	of that period, it allows them to switch jobs.
11	employees, resolving conflicts and preferences	11	From the railroad perspective, the process
12	between employees, and ensuring all jobs are	12	assures that all jobs will be filled.
13	filled.	13	Let's look at how the NS version of and
14	In a small business this can be handled	14	automatic bid system works. We call it
15	manually between the employees and the manager,	15	predictable workforce scheduling. The Norfolk
16	but no manager or team of managers can do that	16	Southern automatic bid system is based on a
17	for a workforce the size of the railroad, but a	17	one-week cycle. Each week all engineers who
18	computer can, and that is exactly what an	18	will be active list their preferences for the
19	automated bid system does. It makes changes to	19	jobs that they would like to work the following
20	job assignments in the streamlined,	20	week. Employees are informed on Thursday of
21	transparent, and consistent manner. It's still	21	which job they are awarded, and the assignments
22	a seniority-based system. It gives senior	22	are effective on Saturday.
		1	

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22	the railroad and the employees have certainty.	22	we've seen overtime the number of engineers
21	displacements or changes during the week. Both	21	Another evidence of success to me is
20	that's essentially it. There are no further	20	work on their day jobs.
19	Once the schedule is set for the week,	19	I brought them all home and put them back to
18	problems.	18	eerily quiet in the crew management center that
17	the jobs that they want to work solves a lot of	17	maybe two. After the first week it was so
16	active service based on their seniority choose	16	told them to expect to be there for a month,
15	assignment pool and just letting those in	15	the issues that we thought were inevitable. I
14	workforce. Removing those people from the job	14	them to be in crew management to work through
13	complaints, and again, rippling through the	13	a sizeable portion of my staff and assigned
12	don't see them, and constantly causing	12	was anticipating start-up problems. So I took
11	occur and be the one to claim them while others	11	of Labor Relations for Norfolk Southern and I
10	have to watch for the vacation vacancies to	10	implemented this system, I was vice-president
9	for-all in the legacy system, because people	9	that are meaningful to me. When we first
8	solves so many problems. It's a bit of a free-	8	Let me share a few evidence of success
7	backfilling for an employee on vacation. It	7	back from it.
6	because it contrasts with the legacy method of	6	becomes entrenched, and nobody wants to turn
5	employees to be assigned. It's important	5	Adoption happenings quickly. The system
4	for that succeeding week out of the pool of	4	employee understand the benefits to them.
3	take engineers who are scheduled for vacation	3	Our experience demonstrates that the
2	important because what that really means is we	2	railroad knows all jobs are going to be filled.
1	The point about active engineers is	1	I know I'm going to be on my job and the
	-		-

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	2		2
1	changing jobs from week to week. The	1	getting that job that is better for them for
2	percentage is relatively small, between 10 and	2	that week. Other employees who have maybe more
3	20 percent. It's constant. It varies very	3	complicated personal situations will change
4	little. It is not creating a churn. It is not	4	jobs perhaps depending on whether the school
5	something that employees are playing games	5	years in session or some other personal factor
6	with. They're using it as it intended, and it	6	that determines when they do or don't need to
7	works seamlessly.	7	have off days.
8	In fact, it works so seamlessly, I had	8	At this point, I'm going to turn it over
9	no trouble jotting down my notes about the	9	to Jacob, because as I said, he's run the crew
10	problems with the legacy system and what we	10	management center. He's seen this from a HR
11	struggled to do with that. I had to go back	11	perspective. He's seen it from a marking
12	and remind myself of the mechanics of the	12	perspective, and he can probably articulate far
13	predictable workforce system, because nobody	13	better than I some of the impacts, and
14	talks about it. Week in, week out it just	14	especially the positive ones for the engineer
15	happens. People are reassigned to their jobs	15	workforce. Jacob.
16	for the following week.	16	MR. ELIUM: Thanks, Scott.
17	Some employees don't change their	17	The Norfolk Southern automated bid
18	preference for jobs for weeks, months, even	18	system benefits employees primarily because it
19	years. Other employees, especially more junior	19	removes the 24/7 threat of being displaced from
20	ones, make sure that they have preferences out	20	their assignments. Employees now remain on
21	there so that when senior people go on vacation	21	their assignments for the full duration of the
22	that they will be able to have a shot at	22	predetermined job period.

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	2		-
1	Under our automated bid scheduling, if	1	system. The weekend surges of unavailability
2	an employee is awarded a job with Saturday and	2	went away.
3	Sunday rest days, the employee knows those days	3	The automated bid system has many
4	will actually be realized. Those rest days	4	benefits. From a crew management perspective,
5	will be realized.	5	we have more confidence in the availability of
6	The system as Scott mentioned provides	6	our engineer workforce throughout the week,
7	employees with more control over their	7	including the weekends, because what our
8	schedules as well. For example, if an	8	under the automated bid system. We essentially
9	employee's son has baseball games on Thursday	9	do not have attendance problems for the
10	evenings, the employee could bid on an	10	engineers since implementing this in the same
11	assignment with Thursday rest days without	11	way we do for the other crafts.
12	having the concern of being displaced. This	12	Since 2018, we've only dismissed twenty-
13	predictability gives employees improved	13	six engineers for attendance out of a workforce
14	work/life balance because they can plan their	14	of approximately 4,000. The automated bid
15	personal time around the conditions of their	15	system allows the crew management center to
16	assignments.	16	give employees better access to their
17	As you can see on this slide, after	17	contractual paid time off because we have more
18	Norfolk Southern implemented our predictable	18	confidence in their availability.
19	workforce scheduling system in 2016, we	19	The customer also benefits from this
20	experienced substantially lower and more even	20	improved availability. Under the legacy job
21	level of unscheduled unavailability for	21	assignment process, if a customer with a five-
22	engineers after the implementation of the	22	day week service from Sunday to Thursday

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1 requests to change their service days from 1 requests. 2 Monday through Friday, this process of 2 Next we will talk about the self-3 3 abolishing the previous job, reestablishing a supporting pool component of our proposal. 4 4 Today most train engine employees work in new job, which the contract requires, triggers 5 5 a cascading series of displacements that are assigned service and most employees hold jobs 6 6 in freight pools operating between two very disruptive to the Carrier and the 7 7 customer's operations. locations, the employee's home terminal and the 8 8 The automated bid system turns this same employee's away from home terminal. 9 9 For example, a pool may operate between request from the customer into a seamless 10 10 Atlanta, Georgia and Chattanooga, Tennessee, process that improves the outcome for all 11 and operate in a first in/first out method. 11 involved. 12 The employee who has first arrived at their 12 Aside from the improved availability of 13 home terminal will be the first employee who's 13 the automated bid system, thousands of phone 14 called to work. 14 calls, and the manual effort of administering 15 When an employee in a pool is 15 displacements by the crew management center was 16 replaced with repeatable and seamless weekly 16 unavailable for work due to vacation day or 17 some other unscheduled paid time off, this 17 process. 18 creates a temporary vacancy that must be 18 The NS system has remained popular with 19 the BLET represent engineers ever since it was 19 filled. Rather than calling the next person in 20 the pool who's next on the list, the Carrier is 20 implemented. This system allows the crew 21 required to first try to staff a temporary management center to focus more on proactive 21 22 vacancy through the extra-board. The problem 22 group planning such as handling paid time off

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1	is that the person on the extra-board is not	1	The traditional pool filling vacancy
2	guaranteed to be available either. In fact,	2	pool vacancy filling process also creates an
3	many times the extra-board availability is	3	avenue for employees to make themselves
4	lower than the availability of the pool despite	4	unavailable for long periods of time without
5	the fact that the extra-board is there to fill	5	having to account for that time with a mark-
6	the vacancies of the pool.	6	off. Many Collective Bargaining Agreements
7	When nobody from the extra-board is	7	require employees who laid off to wait until
8	available under the established vacancy	8	their pool turn is worked home until they can
9	procedures, Carriers have to start calling	9	be placed back on board. This process is known
10	employees in a specific order as directed by	10	as waiting turn.
11	the Collective Bargaining Agreement. This	11	As this slide shows, this is a real
12	process is called running decisions or	12	example that occurred recently at Norfolk
13	canvasing depending on the railroad.	13	Southern. The employee marked off sick on June
14	This requires the Carriers crew	14	7th at 9:28 p.m. The employees' term was
15	management center to manually call dozens of	15	called out that same night at 11:45 p.m., and
16	employees, many of whom are not expecting the	16	the employee marked up off the sick markup
17	call, and in most cases are not even required	17	three minutes later at 11:48 p.m.
18	to accept the call day and night to comply with	18	So in this case the employee had to wait
19	the vacancy fill in procedure. This process	19	the term to operate to the away from home
20	disrupts employees, disrupts the crew	20	terminal, and then back to the home terminal
21	management office, and ultimately disrupts the	21	before that employee would be available to work
22	Carriers' ability to service the customers.	22	again. This means the employee was off sick

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	Page 808		Page 809
1	for 2 hours and 20 minutes but was unavailable	1	were implemented. At NS, because of the gained
2	for over 40 hours. Nearly all of this time is	2	deficiency through self-supporting pools, we
3	attributable to waiting turn as opposed to the	3	were able to implement work rest schedules
4	sick mark-off. Self-supporting pools eliminate	4	under which employees receive a certain number
5	this type of game from being played.	5	of consecutive rest days after a certain number
6	By making the pool less reliant on the	6	of consecutive days available.
7	extra-board, it reduces the frequency of	7	Shifting employees from the undesirable
8	running decisions. Fewer phone calls, fewer	8	extra-board is ultimately a good thing for both
9	disruptions, fewer delays. Self-supporting	9	the Carriers and employees. I'll now turn it
10	pools also cause the pool to turn faster, which	10	back over to Scott to discuss how we propose to
11	creates more work opportunities for the pool	11	share the benefits of these proposals with the
12	and ultimately decreases the time at the away	12	employees.
13	from home terminal, which was previously	13	MR. WEAVER: Thanks, Jacob.
14	mentioned is something that is in both the	14	Stability in the available workforce
15	interest of the Carriers and the employees.	15	prevents opportunities. It prevents
16	As this slide demonstrates, NS saw	16	opportunities to provide the type of benefits
17	benefits after implementing self-supporting	17	that employees seek. And, in fact, our
18	pools in the sense that we had less reliance on	18	proposal explicitly states that self-supporting
19	the extra-boards without any loss in	19	pools and the pool regulation component that I
20	productivity. Engineers in self-supporting	20	will discuss next will be linked to at least
21	pools average almost the same number of starts	21	one of the three options listed on the screen,
22	the year before and the year after the pools	22	additional rest, trip trading, or prearranged

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1	layoff.	1	These are ways to swap jobs. These are other
2	As Jacob just mentioned, additional rest	2	ways to build in predictability. We leave that
3	is the component in the self-supporting pools	3	to the individual railroads and their union
4	for Norfolk Southern. And what this means is	4	counterparts to figure out what works best for
5	all of our engineers in pool service now have	5	them. We are not dictating suggesting that
6	assigned rest days. The default option which	6	we dictate a one-size-fits-all solution.
7	is varied from maybe in a handful of pools is	7	Also as you've heard previously, let me
8	six days of availability followed by two	8	remind you our proposal also as a quid pro quo
9	mandatory rest days.	9	provides one additional paid day off tied to
10	Our engineers when working through	10	the adoption of this improved approach to job
11	with this liked the concept of the 6 and 2 for	11	assignments.
12	one important reason. It rotates obviously on	12	Turning to pool regulation, which is the
13	a different sequence than a calendar week does.	13	third leg of the stool and probably the least
14	This means that off time on weekends and during	14	exciting of the three to be candid about it.
15	the week is more equitably distributed.	15	Really what pool regulation is, is determining
16	Because once every four weeks when you're in a	16	the number of employees a pool is needed to be
17	self-sustaining pool, you know you'll have a	17	staffed with to operate the trains that operate
18	weekend day off. And approximately about half	18	between two terminals.
19	of your work weeks will include Friday,	19	Historically, that calculation has been
20	Saturday, or Sunday off.	20	based on mileage, which has been problematic
21	There are other options. We see the	21	for a number of reasons I'll talk about. And
22	trip trading and the prearranged layoffs.	22	what we propose with our BLE and that they were

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1	on board with was changing this to a start	1	So in this case under the mileage
2	calculation. For starters, it's just a lot	2	regulation, it required staffing between 38 and
3	more simple. Pretty easy to know how many	3	4,800 miles per month. And it requires four
4	times you went to work in a particular pool	4	engineers to protect the service. The engineer
5	over a given period of time.	5	earnings were artificially depressed because
6	And we had three and this goes to one	6	the pool turned so slowly.
7	of the questions that you asked earlier. We	7	Under starts, conversely, about 17 to 20
8	had some principles that we wanted to make sure	8	starts per month. We were able to protect the
9	we adhered to. The regulation methods and	9	service with three engineers. The engineers
10	to meet operational obligations, achieve	10	worked two days on. They worked from Macon to
11	manpower stability, and to provide sufficient	11	Jacksonville one day, worked back the next, and
12	earning opportunity for engineers.	12	then they get a day off. So these are not
13	We show you an example of how it's	13	overly there's a good work/rest cycle there.
14	worked in real life. Macon, Georgia to	14	And the earning opportunity are improved
15	Jacksonville, Florida, 258-mile run. 258	15	because they're getting out. They're turning
16	miles, we would consider that a long run. One	16	more quickly and then they're getting their
17	of the typical problems with the mileage	17	time off.
18	calculation the way it was done is it tended to	18	One of the other problems, and I think
19	overstaff long pools and understaff short	19	this one's significant with the mileage-based
20	pools. But with the start-based calculation,	20	system is it doesn't align with the current
21	which is graduated depending on the length of	21	regulatory structure of the RFIA and the
22	the run, those problems are solved.	22	mandatory rest, which is a start-based formula.

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1	And we would see situations that while	1	vastly different time, we not only improve the
2	engineers were working within the mileage	2	reliability of the product we provide to our
3	limitations of a pool, they were also running	3	customers, but we're able to provide consistent
4	afoul of the mandatory rest requirements based	4	predictable schedules and time off for our
5	on consecutive days of starts within the RFAI	5	employees. This is the type of proven,
6	by marrying up the basis for our staffing	6	measured, and incremental change that can
7	levels, number of starts with the base of the	7	compel the industry and its employees forward,
8	RFAI mandatory rest. We have solved those	8	and we urge the board to embrace our proposal.
9	problems.	9	Thank you for your time. We are happy
10	So those are the three components of our	10	to answer any questions.
11	improved job scheduling proposal. I hope we've	11	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Thank you Mr. Weaver
12	demonstrated to you we're focused on removing	12	and Mr. Elium. Anything you want to pose?
13	unnecessary complexity in the staffing	13	BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: Have the
14	assignments to fulfill our service requirements	14	carriers been able to quantify the value of the
15	for our customers, and we have found solutions	15	savings that are anticipated from these
16	that work. It's not just Norfolk Southern.	16	changes?
17	CSX does this with a large portion of their	17	MR. WEAVER: The dollar amount that we
18	employees. You've heard there's some of it at	18	put to it is about \$38 million a year. That
19	CSX. But it is not the norm in the railroad	19	certainly it's about most of that is
20	industry.	20	splitting approximately evenly between the
21	With the simplicity produced by	21	self-sustaining pools and the automatic bid
22	automating a system, and it's a relic of a	22	system. The pool regulation is a smaller

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1 amount. 2 BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: And I 3 understand that these three proposals are in 4 effect in some crafts in some Carriers already, correct? 5 6 MR. WEAVER: Yes. 7 BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: You said it's -8 - you've implemented it at Norfolk Southern 9 just with the engineers? 10 MR. WEAVER: That's correct. BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: And I think 11 12 there was reference also to BNSF; is that 13 right? 14 MR. WEAVER: BNSF, which obviously I'm 15 not as familiar with, but they have it for some 16 of their pools. I'm not sure which crafts and 17 what pools, but they have some of this, the 18 self-supporting for some of their pools, yes. 19 And CSX has this very similar to the NS 20 procedures for their engineers and some of 21 their conductors. 22 BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: All right.

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1	Thank you.
2	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: And I have just one,
3	Mr. Weaver, for my education.
4	You testified, I believe, about
5	circumstances where the engineers would benefit
6	from a pay-in as a result of the combination of
7	changes that took place. Are there any
8	scenarios where it had negative impact either
9	relative to allowance or pay?
10	MR. WEAVER: I'm not aware of any. I
11	will tell you that the self-supporting pools,
12	for instance, we have a specific provision in
13	our Collective Bargaining Agreement that allows
14	the BLET to bring forward a situation where
15	they fell like earnings are being depressed,
16	and to my knowledge there's never been one
17	brought forward.
18	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Thank you. And I
19	didn't mean to skip looking at you. Did you
20	have anything you wanted to pose?
21	Okay. I think we're in good shape then.
22	Thank you both very much.

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1	MR. WEAVER: Thank you.	1	deals done that way.
2	MR. MUNRO: Mr. Chairman, with the	2	Also, just locally, the parties know how
3	board's permission, our final witness is Rob	3	to get deals done. And so in a number of these
4	Karov. He is the vice-president of Labor	4	areas that you're touching on you hear this
5	Relations for BNSF, and he's going to address	5	continuing theme of these things have been
6	some of the maintenance away proposals.	6	addressed in part, not in whole, not
7	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Thank you, Mr.	7	comprehensively. And so unfortunately we're
8	Munro. May I ask the court reporter to please	8	going to take up some of your time in an
9	swear in Mr. Karov.	9	unnecessary way, because we're going to talk
10	THEREUPON:	10	about what maintenance away is looking for.
11	ROB KAROV	11	Maintenance away is one of our most
12	was called for examination, and, after being	12	appreciated crafts in terms of the hard labor
13	duly sworn, testified as follows:	13	that it takes to do those jobs. And so it's
14	MR. KAROV: Sorry to stand between lunch	14	hard to obviously out of twelve crafts suggest
15	here. Last one for the Carriers.	15	you have favorites, and I'm not doing that. I
16	So my name is Rob Karov. I'm Vice-	16	don't won't to disparage any over craft. But
17	President of Labor Relations for BNSF Railway,	17	this is a what their addressing here and the
18	and I am disappointed to be here. Only because	18	reason I'm addressing one of the multitude of
19	I know through my 30 years of doing this that	19	Union proposals is because this is an extremely
20	with most of these fine folks and their co-	20	expensive one. It's \$170 million over five
21	workers, we know how to get deals done. This	21	years. But it's something that we've already
22	is my sixth labor round. We've gotten many	22	addressed. It's been addressed locally, and
	Page 820		Page 821
1	it's been addressed in stainable ways. So I'll	1	And so it stands to reason that expenses and
2	unpack that.	2	lodging was an important issue here decades ago
3	So what's at stake here? What is labor	3	and over time, and again in Arbitration Board
4	asking for here that I'm at the podium to	4	298, and then in 1996. And the Honorable Dr.
5	address and respond to, and that's increases in	5	Twomey here was chairman of that board. That
6	travel, lodging and away from home terminal	6	was right after these large district gangs were
7	expenses or away from home expense.	7	getting established. And so it became
8	So the history on this like a lot of	8	pronounced again as time away from home and how
9	things that we have is long and illustrative.	9	that will be handled.
10	So it started in the '60s, in 1967 with	10	And then after the last PEB, all of us

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And then after the last PEB, all of us went back home with our respective maintenance away coworkers here, if you will, and we also solved on a quid pro quo basis of how to address the issues at hand. And so yet here it is again. Let me just take you through some of the details. But I want to leave you with the impression right up front is that this is not a broken system. It's been addressed locally. And the scheme that has been set forth voluntarily and also through PEBs and other boards is that it is not a one for one dollar replacement. It has been designed, and I guess

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Arbitration Board 298. And 298 started to

really address for the traveling part of your

be 50 to 70 percent of the workforce is

maintenance away. And the way it's structured,

right, so we have hard quarter gangs. It could

headquartered. They go home every night. 30

to 50 percent depending on the railroad are

away from home. And it's the nature of the

bridges, on our structures in some cases. And

so that requires them to be away from home in

these highly mechanized often traveling gangs.

business. They work on our track, on our

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1	the parties maybe are happy of having a	1	forum again and to say we've had this unique
2	paradigm, where there's an offset to expenses	2	tapestry now. It looks very different on the
3	but not one for one renumeration.	3	railroads. And now blow all that up and
4	So as I mentioned, these could be large	4	overlay a brand-new system.
5	gangs traveling over long distances, remote	5	And so what's labor asking for here?
6	locations, and they're eligible to receive	6	They're asking for a complete overhaul. This
7	payments. And these payments often supplement	7	is spin the Beetle song Revolution. This is
8	their wages. Again, not just to offset for	8	not evolutionary. This is a revolution in
9	expenses.	9	terms of how we would pay. It really is
10	So the tapestry here, if you will, and	10	adopting the Government model we think. And
11	you'll see it's buried on the various	11	the reason I say we think is we haven't
12	railroads. So like a lot of things, there is a	12	bargained over this. This was dropped on us on
13	common thread through common boards and PEBs	13	July 11th, this scheme here, two weeks ago.
14	that got everybody on a similar footing, and	14	And so we've not had the ability to grapple and
15	then over time it's diverged. It's diverged	15	bargain over how would this replace our current
16	due to the unique interest on each of the	16	scheme, how would this work through I mean,
17	railroads.	17	there's building blocks, as you know, around
18	And also there were unique tradeoffs,	18	for 170 years as an industry as a railroad,
19	right. There were quid pro quos. Like a lot	19	there are building blocks that get us to where
20	of what we do locally to create paradigms that	20	they're at. So to actually just blow up the
21	worked uniquely for the parties. And that's	21	scheme that we have and overlay something brand
22	why it's kind of hard to come then to this	22	new has cause and effect and things that have
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1	to be reconciled. So it can't just be done in	1	were granted.
2	an environment like this overlaid and dropped	2	So travel allowances. So when employees
3	on the railroads. It doesn't work. So it	3	travel at the start of the work season often to
4	looks at taking the GSA CONUS allowances for	4	go home, right. During the work season these
5	away from home expenses, the IRS rate for	5	are important payments. And then at the end of
6	travel allowances. And like I said, it's a	6	the work season monies are paid based on
7	completely different scheme.	7	mileage away from home.
8	So this is just a quick rundown of the	8	1996, set up the schedule at BNSF.
9	history and framework. So 298, 1967	9	You'll see we pay appreciably more than that.
10	established this basic framework. Again,	10	And so that was born out of again a foundation
11	headquartered employees do have the distinction	11	in 1996, but a divergence locally. And many of
12	of having actual reasonable costs reimbursed.	12	the railroads have gone down exactly that path.
13	So that continues today. Spoiler alert here.	13	Something that doesn't happen very often
14	I'll get to why is it that for the traveling	14	is midweek assembly point changes. That's not
15	side it's not actual reimbursement. It's a	15	typically how we run these in the industry. So
16	schedule, right. So let's just hold that	16	those payments happen occasionally, but very
17	thought for a little bit before I get to a	17	small fraction of the time compared to all the
18	conclusion there.	18	mileage that's traversed across the country
19	In 229, 1996 BMWED said it was	19	going home and back. This is where IRS
20	inadequate and sought additional	20	payments show up occasionally under unique
21	reimbursements. And again, this is because of	21	circumstances. At BNSF if it's if we're
22	these larger expanded work districts, and they	22	providing the transportation, then we actually

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1	paid time on work for it as opposed to the IRS.
2	So maybe this is kind of what they're thinking.
3	But again, this happens miniscule amount of
4	time. They would overhaul the broader
5	construct now than with this IRS reimbursement.
6	On meals and lodging, this is again
7	where the BMWED wants to completely overhaul
8	this at astronomical rates that are frankly
9	disruptive and not warranted. And I'll get to
10	some conclusions of why those payments are not
11	warranted in ways that I think that we'll be
12	able to connect here analytically.
13	But so if you see the rate as it
14	started, obviously commensurate with the times
15	in 1967 at 3-dollars. 26-dollars is what it
16	would be adjusted for inflation, the PEB 298
17	rate, and then our current allowance at BNSF.
18	And you can see the contrast. Over double of
19	that through this comprehensive overall.
20	Also, you know, you used to hear about
21	lodging being an issue, and here it's not
	lodging in terms of single-person occupancy.

That was the most pronounced thing that we've had to face in the past. The industry solved for this. So at BNSF, the vast majority of times employees enjoy single-person occupancy. And we have overflow scenarios if they can't. Then they go to adjacent hotels so that we can satisfy that. And only then do we pay a premium if you have to have a roommate. It doesn't happen often.

And also when we lodge our employees, most railroads handle it this way, we pay for the lodging. Okay. So we enjoy economy's a scale, right. So it only makes sense that we leverage that. It's good for us and it's good for the employees to pay for the lodging. And it's not something that the employees have to fund themselves. Not every railroad uses that model. Others have different models that work for them, again, negotiated on a quid pro quo basis.

So this just gives you an illustration of how the rates -- and that's not a current

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1	rate the 35-dollars. It's just we've all gone	1	pragmatic solutions. But the more radical, th
2	down different paths. The rate on various	2	more time it takes to bargain over this. And
3	railroads is probably in between this. But you	3	so the whole process has been sort of short
4	can see BMWE's proposed rate is the GSA	4	shifted. And it feels like it's unfortunate
5	CONUS rate is ninety-six bucks. It's quite a	5	that it's in your laps now, but it doesn't feel
6	bit different and quite a contrast from what	6	like that needs to be rewards with some sort
7	the roads have today.	7	comprehensive solution to a problem that isn
8	So again, it would be incredibly	8	broken.
9	disruptive to revolutionize this, right. I	9	Also, again, we have unique outcomes a
10	mean, we've even heard labor say here that it's	10	each of the railroads and they were born out
11	incremental changes, things that you know,	11	quid pro quos after the last PEB. So what we
12	not radical changes. And that's a theme that's	12	did at BNSF, and actually most of the industry
13	been adopted by Presidential Emergency Boards.	13	did, four weekend travel in start of work
14	So we say this is not something that needs a	14	season and end of work season. The robust
15	radical overhaul. But as I mentioned that	15	payments that employees get for that, we
16	we've had other than 15 minutes of talking	16	indexed those, right.
17	about the broad subject through the entire	17	So we took in 2012, we said here's the
18	scope of bargaining over two and a half years,	18	dollars that's satisfactory to everybody, and
19	this paradigm was introduced two weeks ago.	19	we indexed them for inflation. Now this is the
20	So I've been doing this for a long time.	20	one place where CPIW gets some traction,
21	I mean, the parties need the opportunity to	21	because it's how you offset expenses. So we
22	grapple with all the gives and takes of	22	use that in our agreements to index. It only

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1	makes sense. So as inflation has gone up,	1	traveling gangs. If this was a problem, if
2	guess what's happened to those payments at BNSF	2	they couldn't get compensation for what they
3	and most of the railroad, they've also gone up.	3	need for travel, seniority would find its new
4	So it's not like I said, it's not a	4	level.
5	broken system. We've done that also with our	5	Now you might say, well, your traveling
6	logic rates. We've indexed those. But like I	6	gangs have already started. Employees got
7	said, it generally matter at BNSF, because we	7	locked into this. Our gangs get to bid back.
8	pay those directly. Pay those monies so that	8	They get to go we have a portion of
9	the employees don't have to worry about that.	9	employees every month that get to go the other
10	And in the railroads that didn't index	10	way; go back to the headquarter jobs they
11	have come up with unique things that work for	11	wanted. That's not happening in appreciable
12	them. Again, on a quid pro quo basis, right.	12	ways. And I think that's the experience at
13	So that's one of the themes.	13	other roads as well. Why? Again, because it's
14	Okay. I said this isn't broken. It	14	indexed. It's been fixed. The rates go up.
15	doesn't need a radical overhaul. How do I know	15	They'll go up on the increments that the
16	that, okay? As you all know, this is a	16	various railroads have negotiated.
17	seniority-based business with our crafts.	17	And the last thing I'll say about that
18	We're not looking to disrupt that. Seniority	18	is this is a payment that's designed again to
19	finds it level. So let's say a railroad has	19	be a dollar amount on a schedule. And the
20	50/50 headquartered in traveling employees. On	20	reason, right, ask yourself. Why do high
21	BNSF it's close to that rate. Some of our	21	seniority people go there and stay there? It's
22	highest seniority employees are on our	22	because it's part of their compensation. I'm
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1	just going to call it what it is. It becomes	1	want to pose?
2	part of how they get paid. And they enjoy that	2	BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: You mentioned
3	you know, being on a road is tough, and	3	that at BNSF, these payments are indexed to
4	working on the road is tough. And so what	4	inflation. Do you know if that's so at other
5	draws somebody to do that? It's these	5	Carriers as well?
6	payments.	6	MR. KAROV: It is. It's on the majority
7	So this is I'll just conclude by	7	of the other railroads.
8	saying, I mean, this has not been subject to	8	BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: I'm sorry,
9	bargaining where we've done this. We've fixed	9	what?
10	it on a quid pro quo basis. This is up and	10	MR. KAROV: It is on the majority of
11	local agreements. The cost of this proposal is	11	other railroads. And the roads that have not
12	\$170 million. That's why I'm up here I guess	12	done that have had other solutions that they've
13	playing cleanup on you know, there's a	13	applied.
14	multitude of their proposals we could have	14	BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: Thank you.
15	talked about. This is an important one to talk	15	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Just one or two for
16	about. It's not broken. The existing benefits	16	clarification, Mr. Karov.
17	are adequate. We know that the seniority is	17	The lodging allowance proposal as you've
18	finding their levels and employees are getting	18	described it applies only if a room is not
19	well compensated for this.	19	provided, correct?
20	That's the conclusion of my prepared	20	MR. KAROV: So you're talking about what
21	comments. I'll be glad to take any questions.	21	BNSF does today or what
22	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Anything that you	22	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: No. The proposal

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1	that you were describing opposition to from the	1	percentage, but I'll get you that percent.
2	BMWED.	2	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: I was just trying to
3	MR. KAROV: It's hard for me to	3	so the bulk of the cost that you've
4	understand because we haven't bargained over	4	described in terms of the proposal is not from
5	it. My supposition here, and again it's a	5	the lodging end, because there are relatively
6	supposition, is that it would be for single-	6	modest number of days you don't actually
7	person occupancy only, and then it would be the	7	provide the room.
8	Government rate. And that the employees would	8	MR. KAROV: That's correct. So it would
9	get it directly into their pockets regardless	9	be implied on the entire industry. It would be
10	of the rate of the hotel room.	10	the traveling side of it really is where the
11	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Fair enough.	11	bulk of that would be made up.
12	And so for at least costing estimate or	12	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: That's what I was
13	the like purposes, I think your slide said if	13	trying to get to. Fair enough. That's all I
14	you didn't provide the lodging at your expense,	14	had. Are you folks good?
15	then this presumably would become effective.	15	BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: You had
16	How frequently does that occur?	16	mentioned this distinction between headquarters
17	MR. KAROV: Where at BNSF we don't pay	17	employees who are entitled to actual reasonable
18	for	18	cost and traveling employees who are entitled
19	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Where you don't have	19	to offsets. And is the reason for that just
20	single lodging that you've been able to provide	20	historical or is there some other rational for
21	to one of the employees who were traveling.	21	that distinction?
22	MR. KAROV: It's a very small	22	MR. KAROV: No, it has been. It's been
	Page 836		Page 837
1	historical. So in 298, 1967, that paradigm was	1	AFTERNOON SESSION (1:32 p.m.)
2	established to the best of my understanding.	2	CONFIDENTIAL PROCEEDINGS
3	That's referenced in the submission of labor as	3	
4	well as our submission. So it's kind of hard	4	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: On the record
5	to tell the ultimate genesis. Some of these	5	please.
6	things may have started on a particular	6	THEREUPON:
7	railroad, but it was really codified generally	7	JOSH MCINERNEY
8	there in 1967, and that paradigm has persisted.	8	was called for examination, and, having been
9	BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: Thank you.	9	previously duly sworn, testified as follows:
10	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: We're in good shape.	10	MR. MCINERNEY: Good afternoon, Mr.
11	Thank you, Mr. Karov.	11	Chairman, Members of the Board. We will begin
12	MR. MUNRO: Mr. Chairman, that completes	12	the Union's affirmative case now. My name is
13	the Carriers' case-in-chief unless you'd like	13	Josh McInerney, and I'm with the law firm of
14	to hear more.	14	Wentz, McInerney, Pfeifer & Petroff. I serve
15	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: At the moment the	15	as general counsel to the Brotherhood of
16	answer is we're done. That's fine. Off the	16	Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen or BLET, and
17	record. Lunch until 1:30.	17	it is my pleasure today to introduce BLET
18	(Thereupon, at 12:30 P.m., a lunch	18	national President, Dennis R. Pierce who will
19	recess was taken.)	19	provide the Union's operating remarks for the
20		20	board today.
21		21	Dennis has been national president and
22		22	principal officer of the 55,000-member BLET

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1	since July 1st, 2010. He has also served as	1	1981.
2	the president of the Teamsters Rail Conference	2	Dennis became a a local chairman for BLE
3	since 2010. That conference is comprised of	3	Local Division 98 in Lincoln, Nebraska in 1991
4	the BLET and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of	4	and he has served continuously as an officer of
5	Way Employees division who together represent	5	the BLET for over 30 years.
6	70,000 active, hardworking Americans who help	6	Last, but certainly not least, Dennis
7	keep our nations rail system operating as	7	also currently serves as the chairman of the
8	locomotive engineers, trainmen, and maintenance	8	Cooperating Railway Labor Organizations or
9	of way employees.	9	CRLO, that is the umbrella organization made up
10	First, taking BLET national office in	10	of all the rail Unions here today that
11	2008 Mr. Pierce was an officers of the BLET's	11	participate in the National Health and welfare
12	committee general committee since 1995, and	12	Plan. With that, I give you Dennis Pierce.
13	served as general chairman for seven years	13	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Thank you, Mr.
14	representing 3,500 members from forty-five	14	McInerney.
15	separate BLET divisions on three railroads.	15	May I ask the court reporter to please
16	Dennis began his railroad career as a	16	swear in President Pierce.
17	Burlington Northern maintenance away employee	17	THEREUPON:
18	in 1977 in Lincoln Nebraska.	18	DENNIS PIERCE
19	In 1979 he transferred to a clerical	19	was called for examination, and, after being
20	position with Burlington Northern, and in 1980,	20	duly sworn, testified as follows:
21	he transferred again to the firemen's craft and	21	MR. PIERCE: Good afternoon, Mr.
22	earned promotion to locomotive engineer in	22	Chairman, Members of the Board. Let me begin

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1	by first thanking you for this opportunity to	1	appeared united, and that's a keyword word,
2	address the Board and also thank you for your	2	united here together before a President
3	service in this important matter. I've been	3	Emergency Board.
4	given the honor today of making these opening	4	We stand united because we are at a
5	remarks on behalf of the 12 Rail Unions	5	crossroads in the rail industry in our mind.
6	appearing before this Board representing every	6	Contrary to the rosy picture painted by the
7	craft and class in the rail industry.	7	Carriers over the last couple of days with
8	That includes everyone from the	8	their relationships with their employees, we're
9	operating crafts of locomotive engineers,	9	at a crossroads where a career in the rail
10	conductors, brakemen, switchmen, hostlers,	10	industry that was once most of the highly
11	yardmasters, to the dispatchers who help trains	11	sought after and enviable jobs in the country
12	move efficiently and safely, to the engineering	12	is not so anymore.
13	crafts of maintenance of way workers and signal	13	But before I go any further, I would
14	man who maintain our nations rail	14	like to briefly follow-on biography that
15	infrastructure, to the shop crafts who build,	15	Counsel McInerney shared. Having worked on the
16	repair, and maintain the Carriers' equipment	16	property for many years and then served my
17	and facilities, to the electrical employees who	17	Union in some capacity for over 30 years, I'm
18	help keep all of the Carriers' operations	18	going to borrow a line from Farmers insurance:
19	running.	19	We know a thing or two because we've seen a
20	Unless I am mistaken, this is the first	20	thing or two.
21	time in the modern history of the Railway Labor	21	I'm not being flippant, but I went to
22	Act that all of the national Rail Unions have	22	work in this industry at a very young age. $\ensuremath{\mathrm{I}}$

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1	was told by my older peers when I did that,	1	that's what I had to do to protect my
2	stick with the railroad, kid, it will be worth	2	seniority, but I remembered what the old timer
3	it, they'll treat you well. That was 45 years	3	had told me, stick it out, kid.
4	ago this year. As part of my time on the	4	I went to work in this industry prior to
5	property I transferred crafts on more than one	5	the Staggers Act. I was working on the
6	occasion, trying to find full-time employment.	6	property during the acrimonious relationships,
7	I was furloughed for roughly 18 months	7	and that's putting it mildly, between the rail
8	of my first 3 years at the railroad, and I held	8	carriers and their employees and the Unions in
9	membership in four of the 12 Unions now before	9	the 1980s and early '90s.
10	this board in that time. And all the while the	10	I've lived and worked through local and
11	old heads kept saying, stick with it, kid, it	11	national contract negotiations, mergers,
12	will be worth it. I spent 11 years at the	12	acquisitions, line sales. Along the way I've
13	bottom of my engineer's seniority roster with	13	been part of the Union team that has
14	no one hired behind me for that period of time	14	successfully negotiated agreements with the
15	during the downturn in business in the '80s.	15	involved rail carriers related to every aspect
16	When I was not furloughed, I traveled	16	of labor relations.
17	the Midwest protecting my seniority. In	17	But something changed along the way and
18	roughly one year's time in the late '80s, I was	18	not for the better. While the Rail Carriers
19	actually qualified to operate trains in	19	here today would have you think they know
20	portions of Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota,	20	what's best for their employees and that they
21	Minnesota, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, and	21	are loved by them, they are grossly out of
22	Oklahoma. Most of that was not by my choice,	22	touch in that regard. It would appear that CEO

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	Page 844		Page 845
1	Fritz and the other Carrier witnesses don't get	1	And working conditions that for many
2	the same e-mails from their employees that we	2	crafts take away any hope of a personal life,
3	do.	3	aren't just hurting the employees, they're
4	As working conditions stand today, and	4	hurting the supply chain and they're hurting
5	while it may have been different in past years,	5	our entire Nation.
6	I believe that many rail workers would be hard	6	Make no mistake about it, though, I am
7	pressed to desire their children or their	7	proud to be a railroader and so are our
8	family members to seek a job in the rail	8	members. We are not proud of what the
9	industry. Compared to those old heads of my	9	railroads have become or the way that they have
10	youth, senior railroad employees are now	10	treated and continue to treat our members. In
11	telling youngsters not to stick it out.	11	sum, that is why all the Rail Labors stand here
12	Instead, they're telling them to run like hell	12	united today on a national scale for the first
13	if they can.	13	time in modern history.
14	Indeed, I have never seen such anger and	14	I'd like now to jump to how we actually
15	dissatisfaction from our members and such an	15	got here. National bargaining in this round as
16	exodus from this industry in my 40-plus years	16	you know began in late 2019 just prior to the
17	on the job. The acrimony of the '80s and '90s	17	start of the COVID pandemic. All the Unions
18	pales in comparison to that on any Class I	18	and the Carriers served the proper notices in
19	Carrier today. There can be no doubt that this	19	either November early December. The Unions
20	anger is a direct result of the way that the	20	began this round of bargaining in two
21	railroads are treating their employees, or I	21	coalitions.
22	should say mistreating their employees.	22	In one coalition was the Brotherhood of

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		1
1	Maintenance of Way Employees Division, BMWED	1
2	and the mechanical division of the	2
3	International Association of the Sheet Metal,	3
4	Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers - SMART	4
5	MD.	5
6	In the other coalition known as the	6
7	Coordinated Bargaining Coalition or CBC was the	7
8	American Train Dispatchers, my own Union - The	8
9	Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and	9
10	Trainmen, the Brotherhood of Railroad	10
11	Signalmen, the International Association of	11
12	Machinists, the International Brotherhood of	12
13	Boilermakers, the International Brotherhood of	13
14	Electrical Workers, the National Conference of	14
15	Firemen & Oilers, the Transportation	15
16	Communications Union, including TCU's	16
17	Brotherhood of Railway Carmen Division, the	17
18	Transportation Division of the International	18
19	Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and	19
20	Transportation Workers, and finally the	20
21	Transport Workers Union.	21
22	The two coalitions each attempted to	22

bargain with Carriers from early 2020 right up through May of this year with the true goal of being to reach a voluntary agreement, key part here, that our membership would ratify. If we attempted to bargain many times and both coalitions met with the Carriers both in person and by video conference, but with no movement whatsoever toward a voluntary agreement in over two and half years. This is not a case of not enough bargaining. It's a case of Carriers stonewalling at the table, rejecting virtually every proposal made by the Unions. It's obvious that saying no to someone's proposal is a form of bargaining, but you lose the right to accuse the other side of insufficient bargaining once you have rejected or repeatedly ignored their proposals. As for the Carriers' demands throughout the negotiations, both prior to mediation and while in mediation, the Carriers were unrelenting in their demands for significant concessionary changes to the current national health and

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1 was deemed essential when the pandemic begun, welfare agreement. Our Unions, regardless of the coalition 2 they've been on the job doing their part to 3 they were in, spoke with one voice on behalf of move the Nation's freight day in and day out in our members, consistently rejecting 4 some cases to the detriment of their own concessionary proposals. The concessions 5 health. As we now crawl our way out of the 6 sought by the railroads to shift more and more pandemic or at least try to, the rail carriers cost of healthcare onto the employees is quite 7 continue to report record profits quarter after honestly outrageous to us, especially in the 8 quarter. face of the record profits experienced by this 9 Even so they demand that their industry for many years. 10 employees' healthcare benefits be reduced While the railroads are busy trying to 11 significantly. Be clear here, there is no convince you and their employees that their 12 pathway to a voluntary agreement that includes proposals are just, nothing could be further 13 these concessions and the railroads have been from the truth in our mind. 14 told that from day one. We recognize that we The fact of the matter is the Carriers 15 have a health and welfare plan to be proud of. have been told and they know full well that 16 But starting points matter. The reason that their employees, our members, will not 17 railroad workers enjoy a so-called premium plan voluntarily accept, nor will our membership is because the industry has been heavily 18 ratify an agreement that diminishes our 19 unionized for the better part of a century.

20

21 As many in this room are aware, it was You have to remember that our membership 22 the railroads and their rail union that

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carriers' demanded concessions.

memberships' healthcare benefits through the

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Railroad unions predate the railway Labor Act.

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1	technically wrote the Railway Labor Act and	1	they've done time and time again that our
2	handed it to Congress.	2	health care plan is just too good for the
3	While the private industry unionization	3	employees. It's too good and they should pay
4	rate in the United States is currently in the	4	more or less even with railroad's record-
5	single digits for those practicing under the	5	breaking profits, they're just not enough.
6	National Labor Relations Act, railroads are 85	6	Apparently the profits aren't high
7	percent unionized.	7	enough. The billions and billions of stock
8	This percentage has remained unchanged	8	buybacks are not high enough. The doubling of
9	for over 70 years and it's precisely why we	9	dividends to shareholders are just not enough.
10	have strong wages and benefits. It's not	10	Well, all of Rail Labor stands united before
11	because of the Carriers altruism or some	11	you today to tell the Carriers and their
12	changed feigned generosity on their part. And	12	shareholders enough is enough.
13	the Carriers' presentation completely ignores	13	Our healthcare plan was not given to the
14	these facts.	14	Nation's rail workers, it is the product of
15	In fact, the unionized railroad	15	sacrifice through negotiations hard fought over
16	workforce is so unique that the Carriers' heavy	16	generation and in many cases improved or
17	reliance on out of industry comparators even	17	maintained in lieu of wages.
18	for so-called unionized work forces are of no	18	Sacrificing wage increases and advances
19	value to these negotiations.	19	in working conditions to preserve out
20	Nonetheless, we sat in negotiations for	20	healthcare benefits may have made sense in
21	over two years, and we sat here for the last 2	21	times when the railroads were barely getting
22	days, listening to the Carriers argue as	22	by. Those times are no longer.

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1	There's no justification for the	1	health care c
2	Carriers' position that changes to the benefit	2	struggled to
3	levels made in the past are somehow a	3	have earned
4	justification or a requirement for them to	4	their lives an
5	continue to occur in every contract. They	5	risk by showi
6	certainly don't apply that standard to the	6	over the last
7	Union's proposal on workplace expenses	7	not the time
8	The bottom line is that our members	8	their healthc
9	built the railroads, Wall Street did not, and	9	As a ma
10	now is the time to fairly treat and reward the	10	workers need
11	employees for what they have made the	11	provides and
12	railroads, one of the most profitable and	12	every dime o
13	successful industries in our Nation.	13	early in our r
14	Yet even in the face of unprecedented	14	were immova
15	profits, even in the face of the pandemic that	15	that we had t
16	our members braved to keep the economy afloat,	16	Their pr
17	we are asking for nothing more than minor	17	more than a
18	improvements to that plan, Autism and	18	portion of the
19	healthcare, improvements that are long overdue	19	offer in the o
20	by any standard.	20	members hav
21	And it's worth noting that virtually no	21	Union official
22	other industries are trying to push additional	22	treated fairly

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costs onto their employees as we exit the pandemic. Our members d better than this. They've placed nd the lives of their families at wing up for workday in and day out st two and a half years and now is e for them to go backwards with care benefits.

atter of fact, the National rail ed the medical care that our plan d again the Carriers can't afford of it. However, it became clear, negotiations that the Carriers vable in their demand in this round to agree to diminish our plans.

proposed cost shifting is nothing way to take back with one hand a he paltry wage increases that they other. And I'll say it again, our ave made it crystal clear to every al in this room, they expect to be y and fairness does not mean

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1	inferior wages or concessions to the health	1
2	care plan.	2
3	Let's talk about wages. Even while the	3
4	rail carrier continued to report record	4
5	profits, they refuse to make any meaningful	5
6	proposal concerning wage increases while we	6
7	were at the table, all while inflation	7
8	continued to soar. And I have to talk briefly	8
9	about what I think is a distraction to this	9
10	board. The Carriers have attempted to distract	10
11	you with the notion that the Unions didn't	11
12	bargain well enough to present every proposal	12
13	being made by the Unions in front of this	13
14	Board.	14
15	You have to understand something, our	15
16	proposals got all of the attention the Carriers	16
17	were willing to give to them. This is a red	17
18	herring; it's been thrown out by the Carriers	18
19	at the last minute in an attempt to transfer	19
20	responsibility for their own intransigence at	20
21	the bargaining table.	21
22	It's a matter of record that the	22

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retroactive application of the paltry wage	1	last five-year r
increases, even after they had intentionally	2	2019 the co
stalled negotiations for two years. Perhaps	3	increased by n
more importantly, they proposed that the	4	rail worker's re
largest Union present here today take a zero	5	13.8 percent o
wage increase for the life of the agreement	6	Carriers' wage
unless they agreed to the Carriers' demands for	7	concessions th
modifications to existing Crew Consistent	8	be losing in rea
Agreements, that despite the fact that crew	9	Tom Roth will
size is a local issue and not even properly	10	actual value of
before this board.	11	Equally in
These same Carriers now come before this	12	round even be
board suggesting that the Unions started the	13	pandemic, the
round with extreme proposals. This is mind	14	rail carriers ad
blowing. This is no more than the pot calling	15	plans with only
the proverbial kettle black. The Carriers knew	16	without regard
from Day 1 that their employees would never	17	or well-being o
accept and ratify any of their proposals, they	18	their customer
even admitted it at the bargaining table, but	19	supply chain.
they didn't care. In the end, they're here	20	To accom
before the Board asking you to recommend a wage	21	furloughed or
increase of 16 percent over 5 years. Over the	22	nationwide wo
	1	

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Carriers refused to even put forward a single
wage proposal to any involved Union until more
than two years at the bargaining table. And
that was despite multiple requests from the
Unions from day one that they do so.
Everyone in this room knows that the
cornerstone of any tentative agreement is the
wage package, yet the Carriers flatly refused
to make a proposal. At first, to be completely
honest, we weren't sure they knew how, but it
turned out that really wasn't it, they didn't
have the motivation or the intentions to do so.
Come full circle, it is truly
incredulous to us that the Carrier now suggest
that any item before this Board was not
bargained on enough. Even when the wage
proposal was first advanced by the Carriers
earlier this year, it was barely 2 percent per
year, total of 11 percent for five years but
with offsetting health and welfare costs. They
also insisted that, contrary to all modern-day
national freight agreements, there would be no

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last five-year national agreement - 2015 to 2019 -- the compensation of the railroad's CEO increased by more than 111 percent while the rail worker's real compensation increased to 13.8 percent over that same period. When the Carriers' wage proposal is combined with the concessions they seek, employees will actually be losing in real wage terms. Rich Edelman and Tom Roth will get more into detail as to the actual value of both parties' proposals. Equally important before the bargaining

round even began and in the years preceding the pandemic, the majority of the nation's Class I rail carriers adopted slash and burn operating plans with only one goal in mind: profits without regard to health, safety, satisfaction, or well-being of their employees and in the end their customer and ultimately the Nation's supply chain.

To accomplish their goals, they furloughed or fired almost a third of their nationwide work force and that they did force

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1	the remaining employees to work more. They	1	forced thousands of employees out of the
2	began running longer and longer trains without	2	industry either by resignation, termination,
3	regard for our safety concerns, that continue	3	and they further compound an already
4	to all but shut down the rail networks due to	4	understaffed operation.
5	an infrastructure never designed to run these	5	Regardless of what you may have heard
6	longer and heavier trains	6	this morning on just one Class I Carrier, over
7	They mothballed hundreds of locomotives	7	1,000 operating employees have either resigned,
8	and still struggled to maintain sufficient	8	been terminated, or refused to return from
9	locomotive power to move the Nation's freight	9	furlough since the beginning of this year. On
10	As the post-pandemic economy started to	10	any given day, dozens of trains are parked
11	ramp up, they refused to adequately staff their	11	around the country waiting for crews or
12	operations, continually blaming their remaining	12	locomotive power.
13	employees for the rail carrier's actions that	13	This isn't new news, it's been in front
14	negatively impacted their shippers.	14	of the Surface Transportation Board, Congress
15	Draconian attendance policies were	15	is taking an interest, but there's a reason
16	implemented, forcing engineers and conductor to	16	nothing is changing. This business model
17	workday in and day out with no scheduled time	17	accomplished the goal it set out to; it
18	off or be fired.	18	continues to make record profits even though
19	Other employees have routinely been	19	the Nation's economy struggles.
20	subjected to forced overtime, even double	20	Second quarter 2022 Carrier financial
21	shifts due to these self-imposed and harmful	21	reports were issued just last week. Again
22	job cuts. These ridiculous policies have	22	record profits on top of record profits, yet

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	Tage 000		Tage 001
1	they will not treat their employees fairly.	1	workers never subjected to that harsh
2	It's our opinion that the railroads used and	2	lifestyle.
3	continue to use their economic strength to	3	For the record, we see no apples-to-
4	steamroll their employees. In the end, they're	4	apples comparison to benchmark railroad
5	customers and through the supply chain our	5	employment. The Carriers know this, they are
6	nation. It's all for the sake of the bottom	6	the ones who created this mess through this
7	line.	7	mistreatment of their work force and as we have
8	I know this Board cannot solve all those	8	told them at the bargaining table if they were
9	problems, but there is a public interest for	9	capable of shame, they should be ashamed but
10	you to recommend the Union's proposals. Before	10	they're not.
11	we jump into that, you got to look around the	11	Ultimately, our presentation will show
12	room here. You have the leaders of one of the	12	that the Unions' wage proposal is both
13	most profitable industries in the history of	13	affordable to the Carriers and has been earned
14	America, the richest Nation on earth and	14	by the employees. It is far past the time for
15	they're telling you that their employees real	15	the employees to share in the wealth that they
16	wages deserve to stay stagnant or worse, in	16	have created. It's far past the time that
17	some cases they should move backward.	17	human beings who sweat and labor allow the CEOs
18	They have publicly referred to	18	to make twenty million dollars a year to be
19	conductors as unnecessary and they wonder why	19	treated with dignity and respect in the
20	they can't hire. And they suggest that	20	workplace.
21	regardless of the harsh railroad lifestyle,	21	The Union's wage proposal is fair and
22	their wages and benefits should rival those of	22	justified and it should be the basis of any
		1	

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			2
1	wage package recommendation by this Board. As	1	interviews we receive from those leaving the
2	I've said before, we're at a crossroads. The	2	industry, they do not match the ones that the
3	issues facing rail workers like eroding real	3	Carriers shared this week. I would tell you
4	wages, lack of sick leave, draconian attendance	4	that the resulting workplace acrimony and
5	policies, all of this is part of a fewer	5	resentment between labor and management vastly
6	employees doing more work for profit scheme,	6	exceeds that that I experienced in the 1980s
7	that should be of concern to all of us.	7	and 1990s, and things in this industry are
8	The Carrier's refusal to agree to	8	unlikely to improve any time soon if it
9	contract terms that their employees would	9	continues.
10	accept is really why we are here before this	10	But the Unions I speak for are not just
11	Board. It's not that they cannot make or	11	here to share problems with you, those are
12	afford to make acceptable proposals, they	12	pretty easy to find. We're here to propose a
13	choose not to.	13	solution to those problems. If nothing else,
14	When you look at the operation, the	14	the railroads have proved and publicly admitted
15	railroads have cut way past any fat in that	15	that they are no longer adequately staffed.
16	operation. They have cut substantially into	16	They blame shipping delays on the lack
17	muscle and bone that holds this industry	17	of employees every day. But at the rate that
18	together, and the resulting employee	18	employees are resigning and being terminated,
19	mistreatment has brought the so-called "Great	19	especially in the operating crafts, their best
20	Resignation" to an industry that never had that	20	efforts to hire will never create a net gain in
21	problem before.	21	the work force as things stand today.
22	And you can rest assured that the exit	22	Put simply, contrary to what the

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	-	
1	Carriers have told this Board, they can no	1
2	longer hire the pace they need to do the	2
3	workplace issues. And we've heard this week	3
4	the railroads do not need to raise wages to	4
5	hire, but that's not actually true.	5
6	In fact on one Class I in just recent	6
7	weeks they agreed to eliminate entry rates for	7
8	new employees in an effort to attract new	8
9	employees. That's a 25 percent raise in pay on	9
10	day one to be able to hire. At the same time	10
11	may of the Carriers in this room have been	11
12	offering up to 15,000 dollars to attract new	12
13	employees even though the existing employees	13
14	they work alongside and are trained by have not	14
15	seen a wage increase in 3 years.	15
16	And for the record, it didn't take me	16
17	10,000, 15,000 to hire up the railroad 45 years	17
18	ago. This has changed. It's changed because	18
19	it's clear that pay makes a difference. One	19
20	Class I CEO has even publicly stated that	20
21	profitable business is being pushed away due to	21
22	the lack of manpower and motive power.	22

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This is where the proposal advanced by the Unions truly benefit the public interest. It is past time to end the acrimony in this industry, and to find the pathway to labor stability through labor piece. The parties have done that before. They found ways to voluntarily reach national agreements in the years following PEB 219, which in my mind is a glaring low spot in labor and management relationships. This Board's recommendation to adopt the Union's proposals could actually be the catalyst needed to change the industry on a broad scale. What we seek will improve the jobs. It would return to robust hiring and employer retention, and for lack of a better description, get things back on the right track. Whether the Carriers care to admit it or not, they would benefit in the long run, the employees would benefit, the shippers would

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benefit, and we would collectively begin to

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1	restore the Nation's supply chain to what it	1	labor economist Tom Roth, but unfortunately,
2	should be. More than anything else said this	2	before we get to that, I have to address the
3	week, that is in the public interest.	3	Carriers' allegations about the Union's conduct
4	In closing, we believe that the Union's	4	in bargaining. I didn't plan to get into this
5	proposal is an important step in that	5	because I imagine the Board doesn't want to
6	direction, and we respectfully ask that this	6	hear they said, you know, they said's about
7	Board recommend adoption of the same and I	7	bargaining but I can't let the Carriers
8	thank you for your time.	8	allegations go unaddressed, so I'm just going
9	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Thank you, President	9	to briefly respond. And since I was the Chief
10	Pierce. Thank you, sir.	10	Spokesperson for the BMWED and Smart Mechanical
11	MR. PIERCE: With that, I'll introduce	11	Coalition, I'll respond for them. And I'll
12	Richard Edelman to start our remaining	12	skip a lot of beginning stuff, but I'll get to
13	presentation this afternoon.	13	the meat.
14	THEREUPON,	14	On June 4, 2021, we've put down a
15	RICHARD EDELMAN	15	comprehensive proposal on all issues on our
16	was called for examination, and, after being	16	Section 6 Notices. We even put aside an issue
17	duly sworn, testified as follows:	17	that was in litigation. We asked the Carriers
18	MR. EDELMAN: Good afternoon Chairman	18	to respond to their own comprehensive proposal
19	Jaffe, Members Deinhardt, and Twomey. As part	19	on all issues in their notices, and this would
20	of our presentation, we'll discuss the Union's	20	have not only been responsive to our efforts,
21	proposal for general wage increases. I'll	21	it would have been more helpful generally since
22	offer some remarks and then you'll hear from	22	the Carrier's Section 6 Notices were just
		1	

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1	conceptual, in fact, they are more like	1	proposals for further employee concessions on
2	ruminations on the state of the industry.	2	health and welfare benefits. You know, we said
3	While they declined today give us a	3	we weren't refusing to engage. We listened.
4	comprehensive proposal, and we, therefore,	4	We understood where the Carriers wanted to go.
5	invoked mediation. Now, the Carriers accuse us	5	We were simply saying no. Which is entirely
6	of just running off to mediation. But we've	6	permissible.
7	been bargaining for regulation for about a	7	We explained that the memberships, as
8	year. We just provided a comprehensive	8	Dennis said, we have been quite clear, that
9	proposal. They declined to offer one of their	9	they place a very high priority on maintaining
10	own, so it was entirely appropriate for us to	10	the existing health and welfare plans, and that
11	invoke mediation.	11	after
12	The Carriers also accused of not	12	Several rounds of health and welfare give back,
13	engaging and refusing to bargain regarding	13	they oppose further concessions. We also said
14	health and welfare proposals. Now, we listened	14	that the Carriers seem not to recognize that
15	to their presentations. We read their high-	15	while they can treat the cost of health
16	level PowerPoint slides which conveyed general	16	insurance as a predictable cost, they lose out
17	idea and goals but really lacked substance, we	17	over the thousands of covered lives
18	were never really given a proposal, certainly	18	demographically, and among all the Carriers.
19	nothing like what has been presented to the	19	The individual employees can't. They worry
20	Board. What was clear was that they wanted to	20	about the potential cost to their family. What
21	propose significant cost shifting on to	21	if I get cancer; my kid needs surgery or
22	employees, but we said we weren't interested in	22	develops a chronic condition; or if we have a

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	complicated pregnancy. The employees view	1	they did not do. Instead, we got a self-
	increasingly health care as an existential	2	serving recap and characterization of the
	threat to their family's well-being. That's	3	bargaining. So, we responded a few days later.
	why the members feel so strongly about this	4	We didn't meet again until January 28th, so
	issue, and we conveyed that to them.	5	seven weeks later, because the Carriers said
	We also objected that the Carrier's seem	6	they had no availability. Now, mind you we
	to be making health and welfare as their hill	7	were meeting by video. You know, it was like
	to die on. When it's a comparatively an	8	like two hours of your day. On January 28th,
1	insignificant part of their total costs and	9	we still did not get a comprehensive proposal
	they were pursuing a fraction of that fraction.	10	even though the Carriers had provided one to
	What they were talking about would barely move	11	the CBC union about a week earlier. At the
	the needle on their operating ratio, but it's a	12	time, I remarked that I wasn't sure what was
	big deal for their employees for the reasons I	13	more insulting, not getting a proposal or
	have just explained.	14	getting the proposal that had been made to the
	A couple other observations about the	15	CBC. It was shortly after that we sought a
	conduct of bargaining. On December 3, 2021, we	16	release for mediation.
	had Mr. Roth make an extensive presentation and	17	I'm going to stop there on this question
	we referred to the hiring and retention	18	because I think it's a distraction and not
	problems that the Carriers have begun to	19	helpful to the Board, but we couldn't let the
	experience since our last bargaining session or	20	allegation go unanswered.
	mediation. We, again, called on the Carriers	21	In the remainder of this part of the
	to respond to our comprehensive proposal which	22	presentation, the main focus will be on the

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1	Unions wage proposal, the structure of	1
2	industry, and industry economics. You'll hear	2
3	from Mr. Roth who will explain and provide the	3
4	justification for The Union's policy and	4
5	procedures. Now, I have worked with Tom Roth	5
6	for over thirty years, I don't know what the	6
7	future will bring, maybe we'll both still be	7
8	here for the next round, but in case one of us	8
9	isn't, I can say without a doubt there is no	9
10	one who works in this area that I have more	10
11	respect for than Tom Roth. I just feel the	11
12	need to say that.	12
13	While I'm on a bit of diversion I see	13
14	John Gross sitting there, and I want to note	14
15	that a bunch of us in this room took	15
16	arbitration and other courses with John's	16
17	father, Jim Gross, at the *IOR school, in fact,	17
18	he taught two generations of us in this room.	18
19	And since we're labor relations professionals,	19
20	and I want to acknowledge that Jim just retired	20
21	from teaching after several decades, and he	21
22	contributed to setting the high standards of	22

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-	competence and professionalism, and civility we
	all aspire to in this field.
5	Okay, back to our actual subject.
	Before you hear from Mr. Roth, I'm going to set
i	the stage by describing the development of the
5	freight railroads over the last several decades
,	and how they became the profit-generating
:	powerhouses that they are today. I have
)	represented the rail unions for thirty-five
I	years, during much of that time I handled
	matters before the Interstate Commerce
	Commission and the Surface Transportation
	Board, the agencies that regulate the railroads
	and approve or disapprove rail transactions
i	like mergers and acquisitions of control, and
i	ultimately competition in the industry which,
	in turn, affects the profitability of the
	Carriers. I represented the rail unions in all
1	the major control and merger cases that created
I	today's Class I railroads. Those transactions
	resulted in the four mega-Carriers that we have
	today, to cover the overall the states east of

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1	the Mississippi, and to cover all of the states	1	to expire before the Carriers could renegotiate
2	west of the Mississippi, and the other Class I	2	the rate with their customers with their
3	Carriers, two running down the center of the	3	newfound pricing authority.
4	country, and the CP that runs in the northern	4	But in the early 2000s, all of that was
5	Midwest to New York and is looking to acquire	5	accomplished and the duopolies became able to
6	one of other ones that runs down the center of	6	exploit market power. And we see that in Mr.
7	the country.	7	Roth's charts and graphs at Union's Exhibit 20,
8	This is all explained in my declaration,	8	page 20 or 1291, showing net income taking off
9	I won't repeat it in detail today, but the	9	in 2004 and escalating thereafter. And we see
10	point is, that as a result of agency approval	10	it in Dr. *McCoah's graph showing revenue for
11	of the major merger and control transactions,	11	Ten Mile increasing starting in 2004. That's
12	the Class I ended up as duopolies, and for some	12	why my declaration says that contemporary rail
13	commodities and regions, monopolies. The big	13	industry began in the early 2000s because that
14	mergers were authorized in the mid-to-late-	14	is when the mega-Carriers and other Class I's
15	1990s but that didn't immediately lead to	15	achieved pricing authority where they can
16	upswings in profitability. They had to pay off	16	dictate the terms to their customers.
17	acquisition debt, functionally and	17	Now, the point of this isnÕt a history
18	operationally integrate previously separate	18	lesson or a trip down memory lane for me, the
19	railroads, and complete New York Dock employee	19	point is to show you that when Mr. Roth
20	protection implementing agreement force	20	identifies certain trends starting in the early
21	integrations. Additionally, it took a few	21	2000s when he compares profits to wages after
22	years for preexisting contracts with shippers	22	that time, it's not an arbitrary starting
		1	

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1	place. The focus on that time going forward is
2	based to the effects of fundamental
3	restructuring of the industry.
4	The other significant event that's
5	discussed in my declaration that figures in Mr.
6	Roth's analysis is the advent of the new
7	ruthless cost-cutting business model that has
8	been marketed under the brand of PSO. The
9	railroads have branded this model as having
10	something to do with scheduling; that's just
11	part of it. It's ultimately cutting costs,
12	principally about cutting employees. More
13	specifically, it's about cutting operating
14	craft employees by rigid scheduling which would
15	eliminate the need for extra board, assuming
16	everything goes right, which it doesn't; about
17	reducing the number of locomotives which might
18	be okay if everything goes right, which it
19	doesn't; about reducing the number of shop
20	craft employees because locomotives have been
21	mothballed, but then there's a scarcity of
22	employees in inspect and repair locomotives and

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to return mothballed locomotives to service
needed because or demand increases or because
they just mothballed too many locomotives,
which they did.
The new business model also involved
cutting the number of maintenance of lay
employees and signalmen whose work has nothing
to do with scheduling, thereby giving away the
game that this was about scheduling and
utilization of locomotives. In reality, the
new business model has nothing to do with
railroading and everything to do with finance.
Just look at the remarks of former BNSF CEO,
Matt Rose, that are described in my declaration
at paragraph 13, and his remarketed are
reported in Exhibit E. Mr. Rose opposed this
new approach, said the way to increase profits
is to grow the business, but that was not the
path taken. The new business model is driven
at the outset by hedge funds and stock
speculators who saw that this industry was a
duopoly industry at best, with Carriers having

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1	significant market power and light regulation	1	Board
2	and enforcement mechanism because the	2	As for the shippers and the service, as
3	regulatory scheme for the Carrier was devised	3	the workforce was slashed to satisfy the stock
4	when there were many more Carriers, and the	4	speculators, service unsurprisingly suffered.
5	industry was in financial distress.	5	The notion that the rail was overstaffed by
6	So, they drove to a cost-cutting model,	6	thirty percent in 2016 is absurd and accepted
7	and thereby turbocharged the profitability of	7	only by those with stockholdings and those
8	the Class I principally by cutting labor costs	8	whose compensation increases when employment is
9	by slashing the workforce. The newfound	9	cut. But the new model drove profits and that
10	profitability wasn't driven by growth but by	10	led to more and more stock buying. And as we
11	reducing costs primarily in employees. Those	11	have described and is set forth in detail in my
12	who now direct the railroads are even fine with	12	declaration, the previously Surface
13	contraction of business as long as the	13	Transportation Board was jolted to do something
14	businesses they serve can be served at the	14	by complaints from shippers, unions, Members of
15	optimal level of profitability. The collateral	15	Congress, and other federal agencies about
16	damage to this new model was to the employees	16	deteriorating rail service. After a letter
17	of the workforce was reduced by over thirty	17	from the STB and assurances from the Carriers
18	percent, as you've heard, and to the shippers	18	did not change anything, and as complaints
19	whose service deteriorated because of the cost-	19	increased in volume, both quantity and
20	cutting. The problems of the shippers are the	20	loudness, the shippers themselves were citing
21	problem of *STB, which I'll get to in a minute.	21	employee shortages and the STB held emergency
22	The problems of workers are matters to this	22	hearings on what is called Urgent Issues in

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1	Rail Service. And a couple of the STB
2	decisions about this are in my declaration.
3	At the hearing, before any
4	representative of rail labor spoke, the
5	Chairman, and then shipper representatives
6	described the worsening rail service, and in
7	some instances, cessation of rail service under
8	this model, and they attributed much of the
9	problem to reductions in employment. The
10	people who actually provide and support the
11	service. Now, Mr. *Fritz said the other day
12	that the new model improved service. That's
13	not what you hear from the shippers. That's
14	not what they told the STB. Every shipper
15	association complained about the decline in the
16	quality of service and most, if not all, tied
17	the decline in service to the reduction in rail
18	employment. They understood it. They're
19	businesses they know how that works.
20	When I and other representatives of the
21	rail unions spoke, we discussed the effects of
22	repeated rounds of job cuts, of the pressure

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1	being put on the remaining workforce to do work
2	that had been done by a much larger workforce.
3	The concern that workers have about being
4	pressured to work fast and incompletely; to
5	cover territories too large to be covered well
6	by the reduced number of employees; of the
7	Carrier's efforts to make do with a small
8	workforce by requiring workers to be available
9	to work all the time and to respond to all
10	calls by mandating multiple consecutive days of
11	overtime backed up by threats of dis*. The
12	stress on workers continuing through the
13	pandemic as essential workers, and the
14	railroads were issuing cards to the rail
15	workers to show law enforcement and state
16	officials to say I'm an essential worker.
17	During all this time, the railroads were doing
18	PR work, praising their employees as heroes
19	while refusing to give meaningful pay
20	adjustments and while seeking health care
21	givebacks at a time of increasing profits. We
22	noted that some had said there was a thousand

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1	percent increase in thanks for your service and	1	service stayed in the industry for their work
2	a zero percent pay increase.	2	lives. They were career railroaders, we heard
3	We then told the STB of the unheard-of	3	Dennis refer to them. But given all the
4	number of rail workers who were declining	4	pressures and lack of financial incentives to
5	recall, a phenomenon acknowledged by the rail	5	stay, workers were just leaving. We Documented
6	executives. Those workers weren't being	6	this with statements from union officials, from
7	finicky or hyper selective or, you know, newly	7	workers who quit, and from railroad retirement
8	motivated by these concepts. They didn't want	8	coordinators. We showed while carloading
9	to return to help clear up the current	9	bounced back to years pre-pandemic levels, the
10	congestion and the locomotive shortage problems	10	workforce was nearly twenty percent below pre-
11	when they knew they would be furloughed over	11	pandemic levels despite the Carriers' stated
12	again when the problems were resolved. Because	12	efforts to recall furloughed employees and hire
13	the new business model requires the leanest	13	and train workers, the next size of the
14	workforce possible. There's no incentive for	14	workforce was static and this is important to
15	those employees to return to railroading when	15	recognize because they said we're hiring, we're
16	they knew they would be laid off again as soon	16	hiring, we're hiring, we're training, we're
17	as the problem got worked out and STB offered	17	training, we're training, but the net numbers
18	back.	18	stayed the same. Why is that happening?
19	The other unprecedented phenomenon that	19	Because experienced people are leaving, they
20	we talked about was the high number of mid-	20	can't keep up.
21	career quits. It has long been the case that	21	The Carriers acknowledge they were
22	workers over with seven, eight, ten years of	22	having trouble restoring the workforce to

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	Tage 004		
1	higher levels; that they were having	1	same. And
2	difficulties hiring. CSX CEO Jim Foote	2	recruit don't
3	unhelpfully and insultingly compared CSX's	3	seen their n
4	hiring and retention problems to Starbucks'	4	applications
5	problems hiring and retaining baristas. Jobs	5	they're work
6	with much, much have less responsibility and	6	never con
7	require far, far less skill.	7	the jobs, an
8	Spokespersons for the Carriers try to	8	the Carrier t
9	claim they were in the same boat as with other	9	applications
10	employers that are having a difficult time	10	people they
11	hiring, and you have heard that the last two	11	actually mai
12	days. But other employers have not gone on an	12	the amount
13	irresponsible job-cutting binge prior to the	13	number of e
14	pandemic. Other employers were providing	14	plain quittin
15	significant inducements to bring on more	15	The oth
16	employees. But the point is the railroad cut	16	talk about tl
17	below the bone before the pandemic and that's	17	hiring three
18	why they're in the mess they're in.	18	four hundre
19	Now, the STB later directed the Carriers	19	want a mod
20	to report on their efforts to grow the	20	people are le
21	workforce but despite their reported efforts,	21	street to rep
22	the numbers continued to be essentially the	22	That's the a

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1	Incredibly also the Carriers are telling	1	conclusion. Also, it appears that the point of
2	this Board there was no problem. No change in	2	Dr. Allen's paper is to show the Carriers of
3	employee retention. No difficulty hiring. As	3	more applications per vacancy than other
4	Ms. Roma noted, this is contrary to what	4	employers and that their quit rates are
5	they're saying everywhere else, and Mr. Roth	5	lowering for longer. But what we have been
6	will address this in more detail too. But even	6	talking about is comparing the industry today
7	Dr. Allen's paper, which is Carrier Exhibit 5,	7	to the industry in the past. This was an
8	figure two shows the sharp reduction in the	8	industry where it was highly unusual for people
9	number of applicants in 2020, and this paper	9	to refuse recall and hardly anyone quit mid-
10	also shows figure eight, a sharp rise in quits	10	career, and that has changed.
11	since 2020, and, by the way, it stops 2020,	11	Now, maybe the railroad does boast that
12	we're in 2022 now. I suggest all three of you	12	were some other employers in recruitment and
13	look at that graph, one in figure eight, not	13	retention, but they are definitely doing worse
14	the one in the PowerPoint because the one in	14	on those scores than they used to, and the
15	the PowerPoint seems to be scaled in a way that	15	reason for that is as we described them. Dr.
16	the increase looks kind of like this	16	Allen criticized the Union's evidence on this
17	(indicating), and you look at it in the graph	17	in the STB proceedings calling it anecdotal.
18	and its paper its more like that (indicating).	18	We submitted statements from employees in
19	Additionally, we learned yesterday that	19	various crafts, representatives from each of
20	Dr. Allen's paper doesn't include furloughed	20	the Unions have attested to this. These are
21	employees in the declined recall. That's a	21	representative examples not just, you know, a
22	pretty big omission and it undercuts his	22	bunch of people. We also provided member

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	Tage 000		
1	surveys these were voluminous filings, so we	1	industry
2	only provided statements of The Union	2	big com
3	Representatives to this Board, but we provided	3	number
4	you with a link to those materials at the STB,	4	general
5	and that's Union Exhibit 19, my declaration,	5	infer th
6	paragraph 21.	6	the rail
7	Speaking anecdotal evidence, we	7	unprece
8	certainly should not credit the remarks of Mr.	8	early re
9	Fritz about how happy UP workers are. He	9	problen
10	purports, I heard this, to know exactly what	10	retainin
11	his workers think, not don't listen to the	11	trying t
12	people that are elected to represent them,	12	to shipp
13	listen to him. Really? Newsflash, the CEO	13	the tota
14	talks to ranked employees and they say we're	14	But the
15	all good. What a surprise. If Mr. Fritz	15	things t
16	thinks that he is getting the unfurnished	16	As
17	opinions of these workers, he's way deep in his	17	compar
18	own bubble.	18	recruitr
19	We also provided a Railroad Retirement	19	extraor
20	Board report that's dated between March of 2020	20	we'll pa
21	and December of '21, 9,300 people retired;	21	vacatio
22	9,700 quit. Now, this data includes the entire	22	Carriers

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L	industry, I'll acknowledge, so Amtrak and the
2	big commuters were there, they're part of those
3	numbers. But their employment numbers
1	generally were stable, so it's reasonable to
5	infer the quits were at the freights. Also, if
5	the railroads are not experiencing at an
7	unprecedented level of mid-career quit and
3	early retirements, if they are having no
)	problems recruiting and actually hiring and
)	retaining new hires, and if they are really
<u>_</u>	trying to increase their workforces in response
2	to shipper demand and agency oversight, then
3	the total numbers of employees should be up.
1	But they're not. So, at least one of the
5	things the Carrier is saying is not true.
5	As Ms. Roma noted the other day,
7	companies that don't have retention and
3	recruitment problems are not making
9	extraordinary offers like cancel your vacation,
)	we'll pay you for your time worked, and your
_	vacation, and a bonus. And although the
2	Carriers say they are only experiencing

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1	problems at specific locations, they offered no
2	actual evidence of this.
3	And Ms. Carter of the BNSF, when she was
4	talking, she rattled off like six states, I
5	couldnÕt keep track of all of them, that were
6	there having problems. Two of them were
7	California and Nebraska, which are big states
8	and so that doesn't sound like a localized
9	problem.
10	Additionally, the vacation buyback
11	programs were offered to employees in multiple
12	crafts, they weren't limited in location, and
13	the elimination of entry rates wasn't
14	localized, again, indicating more systemic
15	problems. In any event, as I said to Carriers,
16	experts show applications are down and quits
17	are up. And Mr. Roth is going to get into this
18	in some more detail too.
19	One more thing about my presentation to
20	the STB, and this is consistent with what
21	Dennis said, I said in any thirty-five plus
22	years of representing rail unions, this was the

worst labor relations, and, importantly, the
worst employee relations environment over those
years. Which was saying something because I
started during the period of abandonments, line
fails, losses of tens of thousands of jobs, a
PEB report that dramatically changed collective
bargaining agreements, and the Carriers' use of
ICC transactions to circumvent collectively
bargained agreements. I say things are worse
now because back then labor may have been upset
about what was happening, but the industry was
an economic extremist. Relations are worse
today because tens of thousands of jobs have
been cut, the jobs that remain have been
degraded, the remaining employees are
overworked, wages have been stagnate, and the
Carriers are proposing GWIs that do not even
keep up with the rising cost of living, and
they seek union significant concessions on
health and welfare benefit at a time of record
profits, and that is why people are declining
recalls and quitting mid-career; why the

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Carriers have a shortage of qualified workers. Now, I today the STB that much of that is not a problem for the STB to fix because it's not a labor relations agency and if the railroad could not bring themselves to change things, would be something for a Presidential Emergency Board to solve. Well, the Carriers didn't come forward proposals that could come close to being a basis for an agreement. There was no offer that could possibly be ratified, so here we are before a PEB. The point of all this and my declaration was to provide some context for what we'll hear from Mr. Roth. But first, I want to respond to a few of the arguments advanced by the Carrier that are based on papers supplied by their economists. Now, the Carriers have deployed a battalion of economists who have launched a flotilla of papers, I guess I'm mixing my military metaphors but -- all saying that based on economic models and theories, the Union's wage proposals are too high and could even be

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dangerous.
I'm not going to cross swords with all
those economics Ph.D.'s about what economic
models say and how those models work. But I
was trained to think critically and to examine
arguments that are implicant with unproven
assumptions. And I have been involved in the
rail industry for thirty-five years and
represented rail unions before the ICC and STB,
as I said, in the major merger and control
transactions, and a problem with the reports of
the economists relied on by the Carrier is that
they're based on models. They apply based on
perfect markets that are in so-called
equilibrium. But that is not the rail
industry.
As I have explained, as a result of the
major merger control transactions the Class

major merger control transactions, the Class I's are duopolies, and for some areas and some commodities, functional monopolies. All these economists spilled a lot of ink talking about the industry and its environment but none of

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1	them acknowledge the concentration and reduced	1	it's like nobody takes notice; I did because I
2	competition that followed the big merger and	2	lived through and litigated it.
3	control transactions. None of them recognize	3	The Carriers have an immunity from
4	that the Class I's are at least duopolies with	4	antitrust law and all other laws for anything
5	market power with respect to their customers.	5	they can remotely relate the implementation of
6	And, as a result, as I said, of their	6	an approved merger, control, or release
7	coordination in the jettisoning of lines, the	7	transaction or sale. The market power of the
8	Class I's achieved pricing authority in the	8	railroads is recognized by the hedge funds and
9	early 2000s and you can see that. Although the	9	the stock speculators who bought into the
10	prices to shippers decline after the Staggers	10	industry and pushed the new ruthless cost-
11	Act, they started increasing in the mid-2000s.	11	cutting business model on the Class I's. They
12	You see that in Mr. Roth's graph and you see	12	implemented all sorts of cuts, diminished
13	that in Dr. *McCoah's.	13	service to shippers, they just told them how
14	One illustration of their market	14	much service they would get and when and if the
15	dominance is their ability unilaterally change	15	shippers objected, the response was too bad,
16	the *mirage rules they charge shippers when	16	that's what you're getting. They had an
17	cars are idle, basically when cars are waiting	17	algorithm; this is what your service is going
18	to be loaded or picked up. They eliminated so-	18	to be. And they are able to get away with that
19	called free time which was like a grace period.	19	diminished service while the owners benefitted
20	Just like that, the shippers had to pay. They	20	from a bonanza of stock repurchases. And their
21	just implemented that all of a sudden and they	21	shippers really had no other options. The
22	were able to do it. The Carriers also have	22	economists claim they do, but in reality, they
		1	

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1	don't. That is why we saw all the complaints	1	economists.
2	to the STB. if the shippers really had a	2	Dr. Murphy says worker compensation must
3	market-based competitive option, they would	3	be based on market forces. This notion that
4	have exercised it. That's what the economist	4	the general labor market must control rail
5	models say. But instead, they went to the	5	wages is refuted by the Railway Labor Act
6	agency for relief.	6	itself. Its entire point is that workers can
7	Why is this relevant here? Because the	7	use their collective strength to gain more than
8	Carriers' economists, all four have dire	8	the market would normally give them. They can
9	consequences for the Carriers if the Union	9	use collective bargaining to obtain a greater
10	achieves the wage increases that they seek, but	10	share of the revenue taken in by the employer
11	those forecasts were based on models of what	11	than they could if they were just passive
12	happens in a free market in equilibrium. This	12	actors in the market. That's the mechanism of
13	industry does not exist in such a market. How	13	the statute and the Act allows workers to use
14	things work on a whiteboard in a classroom or	14	self-help to extract more than the employers or
15	at a think tank are not how things work in the	15	the market might allow. But it also creates
16	real world of the railroad industry.	16	the process for this Emergency Board, of fact-
17	With those general observations, I'm	17	finding recommendations to interpose
18	going to respond to some of the specific	18	recommendations to induce a settlement in order
19	assertions about the industry advanced by Dr.	19	to avoid resolution by economic combat.
20	Murphy. I think it's particularly important	20	So, in the context of the RLA, the
21	because the Carriers say Dr. Murphy supported	21	assertion that wages must be determined by the
22	the foundation for the conclusions of the other	22	market just misunderstands and mischaracterizes

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1the environment in which these proceedings are occurring.1nothing to prove the second.2occurring.2I'm sure one could line up many more3Dr. Murphy also asserts that3economists, particularly acolytes of Milton4profitability is not an appropriate4Friedman will say the same thing as Dr. Murphy5consideration for determining compensation;5did, but still doesn't prove that this belief6that there is no intrinsic connection between6is or should be controlling. And it is7the two. Wages should be determined solely by7documented in my declaration, the ideology8supply and demant; that's the Union's argument.8promoted by Friedman and his followers, the9That increased profits call for increased9concept of shareholder primacy; that businesses10compensation is, as he says, a fallacy. That10are only responsible to their shareholders, and11was said with great certainty. As if there11not to the workers who've come under increasing12were an iron rule that said this. But there is12criticism, including by major businesses and13no law; no rule; no mathematical formula; no13businesse leaders, as is documented in my14scientific proof that supports this is. This14declaration, Exhibit L.15is just the ideology and say-so of economists15Much of the Carriers argument on16like Dr. Murphy.16compensation is based on the belief that it				
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4profitability is not an appropriate4Friedman will say the same thing as Dr. Murphy5consideration for determining compensation;5did, but still doesn't prove that this belief6that there is no intrinsic connection between6is or should be controlling. And it is7the two. Wages should be determined solely by7documented in my declaration, the ideology8supply and demand; that's the Union's argument.8promoted by Friedman and his followers, the9That increased profits call for increased9concept of shareholder primacy; that businesses10compensation is, as he says, a fallacy. That10are only responsible to their shareholders, and11was said with great certainty. As if there11not to the workers who've come under increasing12were an iron rule that said this. But there is12criticism, including by major businesses and13no law; no rule; no mathematical formula; no13business leaders, as is documented in my14scientific proof that supports this is. This14declaration, Exhibit L.15is just the ideology and say-so of economists15Much of the Carriers argument on16like Dr. Murphy.16compensation is based on the belief that it has17Why shouldn't compensation of those who17no real foundation; it is just a set of values.18work for an enterprise reflect the revenue18But the Board doesn't have to accept that set19taken in by their enterprise? Why should the<	2	occurring.	2	I'm sure one could line up many more
5consideration for determining compensation; 65did, but still doesn't prove that this belief is or should be controlling. And it is6that there is no intrinsic connection between 76is or should be controlling. And it is7the two. Wages should be determined solely by 87documented in my declaration, the ideology8supply and demand; that's the Union's argument. 98promoted by Friedman and his followers, the9That increased profits call for increased 09concept of shareholder primacy; that businesses10compensation is, as he says, a fallacy. That 1110are only responsible to their shareholders, and11was said with great certainty. As if there 1211not to the workers who've come under increasing12were an iron rule that said this. But there is 1312criticism, including by major businesses and13no law; no rule; no mathematical formula; no 1413business leaders, as is documented in my14scientific proof that supports this is. This 1414declaration, Exhibit L.15is just the ideology and say-so of economists 1515Much of the Carriers argument on16like Dr. Murphy.16compensation is based on the belief that it has no real foundation; it is just a set of values.18work for an enterprise reflect the revenue 1918But the Board doesn't have to accept that set19taken in by their enterprise? Why should the 20increases in net income benefit only the 2020 <t< td=""><td>3</td><td>Dr. Murphy also asserts that</td><td>3</td><td>economists, particularly acolytes of Milton</td></t<>	3	Dr. Murphy also asserts that	3	economists, particularly acolytes of Milton
6that there is no intrinsic connection between6is or should be controlling. And it is7the two. Wages should be determined solely by7documented in my declaration, the ideology8supply and demand; that's the Union's argument.8promoted by Friedman and his followers, the9That increased profits call for increased9concept of shareholder primacy; that businesses10compensation is, as he says, a fallacy. That10are only responsible to their shareholders, and11was said with great certainty. As if there11not to the workers who've come under increasing12were an iron rule that said this. But there is12criticism, including by major businesses and13no law; no rule; no mathematical formula; no13business leaders, as is documented in my14scientific proof that supports this is. This14declaration, Exhibit L.15is just the ideology and say-so of economists15Much of the Carriers argument on16like Dr. Murphy.16compensation is based on the belief that it has17Why shouldn't compensation of those who17no real foundation; it is just a set of values.18work for an enterprise reflect the revenue18But the Board doesn't have to accept that set19taken in by their enterprise? Why should the19of values. This industry has been very20increases in net income benefit only the20successful for the last few decades and21shareholders and stock speculators? There's<	4	profitability is not an appropriate	4	Friedman will say the same thing as Dr. Murphy
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17Why shouldn't compensation of those who17no real foundation; it is just a set of values.18work for an enterprise reflect the revenue18But the Board doesn't have to accept that set19taken in by their enterprise? Why should the19of values. This industry has been very20increases in net income benefit only the20successful for the last few decades and21shareholders and stock speculators? There's21phenomenally successful in recent years. That	15	is just the ideology and say-so of economists	15	Much of the Carriers argument on
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21shareholders and stock speculators? There's21phenomenally successful in recent years. That	19	taken in by their enterprise? Why should the	19	of values. This industry has been very
	20	increases in net income benefit only the	20	successful for the last few decades and
22 nothing to disprove the first premise and 22 success should be considered in setting the	21	shareholders and stock speculators? There's	21	phenomenally successful in recent years. That
	22	nothing to disprove the first premise and	22	success should be considered in setting the

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	rage 500		rage 501
1	wages for those who work in this industry.	1	the railroad workers don't. The reality is
2	Now, Dr. Murphy also says that	2	wage increases can come out of profit and when
3	compensating workers above market-value will	3	the profit has been so high for so long, with
4	result in reducing employment. The raising	4	the railroads spending more and more of their
5	price of labor will also reduce employment	5	net income on stock buybacks, they can pay
6	levels. Again, this is said with great	6	increased compensation without reducing
7	certainty and repeatedly. He said it his	7	employment.
8	testimony earlier this week. But is it	8	Now, the Carriers' might decide to
9	actually true?	9	reduce employment, but that would not be
10	I'm reminded of my sophomore economics -	10	because of any compulsion or any market forces;
11	- labor economist class, where the professor	11	it would be a choice. It would be a choice to
12	grabbed wage rates and employment numbers on a	12	reduce employment rather than reduce some of
13	board showed, showed an intersection, and said,	13	stock buybacks. In this regard, I want to
14	so you see when rage wages go up, employment	14	respond to the Slide 22 in the Carriers'
15	must go down. From the back of room, I raised	15	PowerPoint sorry, 24 in the Carriers'
16	my hand and asked why the increase wages	16	PowerPoint for their opening. The graph of
17	couldn't come from excess profits? And the	17	union wage rates and headcounts, and headcounts
18	professor looked at me with a face like he had	18	showed declining as wage rates increased, as
19	just sucked on a lemon, and he exclaimed,	19	that theory would be. But, as they say,
20	"There are no excess profits in equilibrium."	20	correlation is not causation.
21	Well, I thought, you live in equilibrium land	21	The chart starts in 2015, while the job
22	and, apparently, so does Professor Murphy. But	22	chart in the new business model began in 2016,

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	-		-
1	around the time that hedge fund-driven CP	1	Unions to get the Carriers threaten to pass the
2	efforts of a hostile takeover of Norfolk	2	increased cost on to consumers rather than pay
3	Southern. And the headcounts take a sharper	3	the worker from the record profits they have
4	dip in 2019 to 2020, of course, the big	4	been making.
5	pandemic furloughs occurred then. And by the	5	Dr. Murphy also contends that the wages
6	way, interestingly, the graph stops at 2020	6	will result in increased prices for shippers
7	when the GWI sent from the last round had	7	and shippers will switch to other modes.
8	stopped. In short, that graph tells you	8	Again, this doesn't have to be because no force
9	absolutely nothing about the impact of wage	9	drives this. The wages can be paid out of the
10	increases on railroad employment because the	10	income. But in any event, most shippers can't
11	job cuts were driven by the new cost-cussing	11	switch to other modes.
12	business model and the pandemic.	12	We have been told by many shipper
13	Dr. Murphy also asserts that his wages	13	representatives that many commodities simply
14	are too high, the costs will be passed on to	14	can't be shipped by truck. Many shippers are
15	consumers, and there's a higher cost to this.	15	located in rail terminals or on lines where
16	But, again, this does not have to happen. The	16	there is no good road access. Other shippers
17	Carriers' net income is so high, diverting some	17	have said they made substantial investments in
18	of it from the shareholders and stock	18	infrastructure, like building industry leads
19	speculators to the workers does haven't to	19	into their facilities, building storage tracts,
20	result in increased prices to the consumers.	20	constructing loading docks designed for rail,
21	The Board should not refrain from recommending	21	and many shippers have purchased their own
22	fair and appropriate wage increases sought by a	22	fleets of rail cars.

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1	You'd be surprised to know, and I was,	1	this re
2	that the majority of rail cars in the United	2	ſ
3	States are not owned by the railroads. Seventy	3	strate
4	percent are owned by others. So, these	4	to inc
5	shippers have made major investments in using	5	servio
6	rail, so even if they could switch to trucks	6	railroa
7	there are a lot of other considerations	7	never
8	weighing against that kind of switch. And	8	The s
9	there are shippers who have been embargoed by	9	the ra
10	Carriers, told their cars will not be moved for	10	servio
11	a while, or they need to reduce the outputs of	11	don't
12	their cars, or their cars are just parked, and	12	be se
13	there's nothing they can do about it. they're	13	ration
14	in a whole lines where pick-ups and deliveries	14	Carrie
15	have been stopped. In economic models, the	15	wealt
16	customers could just switch to another vendor,	16	is rea
17	another mode, but in the real word of	17	we ta
18	railroading, that's not really much on an	18	this is
19	option.	19	dictat
20	Dr. Murphy also says compensating rail	20	who r
21	workers generate a transfer of wealth to other	21	growi
22	member of society, to the railroad workers, and	22	I
		1	

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1	this reduces economic welfare.
2	Now, those who direct the cost-cutting
3	strategy above all, they reject growth as a way
4	to increase profits. They're indifferent to
5	service standards under the strategy that the
6	railroads are demarketing some shippers. I've
7	never heard this term until the few years ago.
8	The shippers refer to being demarketed because
9	the railroads don't want to provide them
10	service. The railroads want to serve they
11	don't even want to serve some shippers that can
12	be served at a profit but not the maximal
13	ration profit that they desire. So, the
14	Carriers accuse the Unions of transferring
15	wealth to themselves or other parts of society,
16	is really a bold and ridiculous assertion. If
17	we take what my parents would call chutzpah,
18	this is an industry whose operating model is
19	dictated by hedge funds and stock speculators
20	who ran off managers that wanted to keep
21	growing the business.
22	Finally, Dr. Murphy asserted that

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1	Carriers' have no incentive to set compensation	1	market. And unlike the airlines, the railroads
2	to low because they can't effectively compete	2	bargain as a coalition for uniform changes in
3	for labor. But again, this assumes a perfect	3	wages and benefits, and, by the way, when a
4	market, which is not what we have. The	4	union, like the BMWE, seeks to bargain on a
5	Carriers' have many characteristics of a	5	single-Carrier basis, the Carrier sued to block
6	monopsony for labor, at least for the	6	that.
7	established workers. A monopsony of labor is	7	Under a classic economic model, right,
8	basically when there are one or a few employers	8	in a situation like today with a short and
9	hiring workers, and they have more control over	9	skilled labor, theory suggests that BNSF would
10	wages because those workers don't have a lot of	10	improve wages and benefits to attacked skilled
11	options for jobs. Once workers require skills	11	workers from Union Pacific. But that doesn't
12	in the rail crafts, for most of them, it is not	12	happen, the Carriers' keep themselves in lock
13	easy to take their skills elsewhere,	13	on wages and benefits. Now, for more senior
14	particularly engineers, conductors, signalmen,	14	employees, there are other factors like
15	dispatchers, and many maintenance lay	15	seniority they might keep them in place, but
16	employees.	16	for three to five years employees with some
17	Additionally, a cruel of rights under	17	experience, they could be induced to move but
18	the Railroad Retirement Act disincentives	18	that's not happening.
19	leaving the industry and those who retire	19	I wouldn't say the railroads have a
20	without a so-called present connection to the	20	definite monopsony, but they have the
21	industry suffer a reduction in benefits. In	21	characteristics of one and it's factual to say
22	many way as railroads are a single employment	22	they would not set compensation too low of

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	2		2
1	concern they'd unable to compete for labor.	1	MS. ROMA: That is correct.
2	And, again, even if one accepts the notion that	2	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Okay.
3	compensation should be determined solely by the	3	(Thereupon, a brief recess was taken.)
4	supply and demand for labor, the current	4	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Back on the
5	situation, with the ongoing labor shortage and	5	record please.
6	extraordinary efforts by Carriers to fill the	6	MR. EDELMAN: Thank you. The next part
7	gap, indicates that, under that standard, there	7	of our case will be put on by Tom Roth.
8	is still a need for significant adjustment to	8	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: If I could ask a
9	compensation.	9	reporter to swear in Mr. Roth.
10	And with that I'll conclude my remarks	10	THEREUPON:
11	and you'll hear from Mr. Roth next, but I	11	THOMAS ROTH
12	believe we have a break coming, but I'd be glad	12	was called for examination, and, after being
13	to answer any questions that members of the	13	duly sworn, testified as follows:
14	Board may have.	14	MR. ROTH: Good afternoon, Chairman
15	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Thank you, Mr.	15	Jaffe, and Member Deinhardt and Twomey. It
16	Edelman.	16	looks like I drew the short straw. I get to
17	We're in good shape at that time the	17	present my position to you this afternoon after
18	moment. Thank you very much.	18	you have endured seven hours of previous
19	MR. EDELMAN: Thank you.	19	testimony. While I'm not as animated as Rich
20	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: I believe,	20	Edelman, I'll try to keep you awake.
21	Ms. Roma, you had planned on a break at this	21	My name is Thomas R. Roth on the record,
22	point.	22	and I am President of The Labor Bureau, Inc.,

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		1	
1	and I am serving as the financial advisor and	1	the Railway Labor Act, which I have appeared in
2	economic consultant to the labor organizations	2	forty of them; this will be my 41st; twenty-
3	who are appearing before you in this case. I	3	five of which were appearances before President
4	have served in that capacity from the beginning	4	Emergency Boards. But in between those case I
5	of negotiations and have been retained by both	5	have extensive experience in interest
6	coalitions at the outset of negotiations during	6	arbitration and collective bargaining in the
7	this bargaining cycle.	7	urban transit industry where I have done
8	The Labor Bureau is a firm that was	8	hundreds literally of interest arbitration
9	established 98 years ago. We've been in	9	cases in addition to negotiations where I have
10	continuous operation serving the interests of	10	managed negotiations on behalf of the
11	labor organizations principally in connection	11	amalgamated transit union and throughout the
12	with supporting their collective bargaining	12	United States.
13	activities for 98 years now like I've	13	My firm, the Labor Bureau, Inc., its
14	indicated. And my practice has been devoted	14	history is only of interest here because it
15	mainly to the transportation sector, urban	15	helps explain the source of a lot of the data
16	transit, airlines, and railroads. Although, I	16	and material that I used in the presentation
17	have some experience in interest arbitrations	17	and preparation of my report in this case. We
18	outside of that transportation sector.	18	have maintained since the 19 early 1930s a
19	I have been with the Labor Bureau since	19	database that collects financial and economic
20	1974. So over that 48 years I have	20	information on Class I railroads continuously
21	continuously worked in the railroad industry.	21	since that point. Original sources clearly are
22	And between interest arbitration cases under	22	the ICC. Later the Service Transportation
		1	

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	-		
1	Board. And on occasion the AAR.	1	S
2	As we built the database from	2	s
3	principally ICC and STB sources are one reports	3	a
4	for example, we then on occasion we'll compare	4	n
5	that data with that published by the AAR to	5	a
6	make sure there are no serious inconsistencies.	6	
7	Because I think it's important in a case like	7	p
8	this that while the parties can argue about the	8	е
9	application of all of that data and what it	9	s
10	means to you and what it means in describing	10	t
11	the experience of the industry, it's imperative	11	a
12	that we not have a quarrel over the data	12	n
13	itself, and I don't detect that we do. The	13	t
14	numbers that you see produced by the Carriers	14	
15	would conform to what I'm going to show you.	15	С
16	So you don't have to worry about those kinds of	16	t
17	discrepancies. It's a matter of interpretation	17	n
18	and application of that data clearly.	18	I
19	I have not reduced my summary statement	19	t
20	to a series of slides or further summaries as	20	
21	many of the witnesses have in this case,	21	Ν
22	because I'm asking you to be informed by the	22	а

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	1	summary statement that I filed as a complete
	2	submission. It is itself a summary of points
orts	3	and the topics that I want to cover, and I saw
are	4	no purpose in further trying to reduce that to
	5	a few slides.
ies.	6	Although I do have some of the for
	7	purpose of just highlighting and perhaps
ne	8	entertaining those behind me, I have produced
	9	some of the slides that are already embedded in
ng	10	the submission that you have. So I guess I'm
e	11	asking the board to kind of focus on the
	12	narrative itself and not so much the pictures
	13	that you see on the screen.
ers	14	The summary statement has a table of
u.	15	contents in it which would give you an idea,
s of	16	that's behind the cover page, of the subject
ı	17	matter that I intend to cover this afternoon.
	18	I'm not going to read that at you. You can see
nent	19	the various topics that I will be covering.
	20	And by the way, Mr. chairman and Board
	21	Members, I'm referring here, and I draw your
ie	22	attention to Union Exhibit No. 20, which in the

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1	record is at Union 1259, if you have that in	1	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Fair enough.
2	front of you, that would be helpful.	2	MR. ROTH: Beyond the I have an
3	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: We've got it.	3	introductory piece here that identifies the
4	MR. ROTH: Has everybody found it?	4	bargaining units that compose the organizations
5	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Board Member	5	before you. And beyond that there is a table
6	Twomey, would you like another hard copy?	6	on page two that has a calculation of the
7	BOARD MEMBER TWOMEY: Yes.	7	average straight time hourly rate on the
8	MR. ROTH: We have extra hard copies if	8	amendable date. And I know that you in
9	the Board Members can't locate that in the	9	particular, Mr. Chairman, are peculiar about
10	electronic file.	10	these numbers, and so I just want to give you a
11	Thank you. Are we ready?	11	footnote about the calculation that you find on
12	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: We are.	12	page three actually of the chronology of wage
13	MR. ROTH: One last introductory	13	change under the organization's proposal.
14	thought, Mr. Chairman. I know that we're on a	14	You already know what our wage position
15	tight time frame here, and it's imperative that	15	is. It's six percent effective in January
16	you receive my presentation as expeditiously as	16	2020, another six percent on '21, and 8, 4 and
17	possible, but it's also important that you	17	4 on the subsequent anniversary dates of the
18	receive it with the utmost clarity. If you	18	amendable date of January 1, 2020.
19	have any questions as I proceed, feel free to	19	At the bottom of the table there where I
20	interrupt me, because I'm not easily deterred	20	created the chronology, which is based upon the
21	from my game plan here. And you can interrupt	21	average straight time hourly rate for the
22	me at my point.	22	thirteen organizations as of the amendable
	Page 916		Page 917
1	date, you will see that I have calculated an	1	their attention on the last three bargaining
2	increase over the five-year term of 31.2	2	cycles beginning in January of 2005. And what
3	percent.	3	I'm going to ask you to do is reach back and

3 Elsewhere in the record, including in 4 the Carriers' submissions, as well as my own, 5 you might see the number 31.3. That's of 6 course in addition of the general wage 7 increases compounding cumulative over the 8 course of a five-year term. But when you apply 9 those increases to a wage rate and round off to 10 the nearest full cent, you get a 10th of a 11 percent difference. So I just wanted to 12 satisfy your curiosity about why you might see 13 14

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Before we go into a description and an explanation for the genesis of the organization's wage proposal, I want to give you some historical perspective. Predictably a case like this you're going to see from both sides a creation of a kind of comparative wage chronology to see what has occurred over the past few years. The Carriers have focused

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those differences.

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their attention on the last three bargaining
cycles beginning in January of 2005. And what
I'm going to ask you to do is reach back and
look at the consequence of wage bargaining over
a longer period of time. And we're starting
here back to the first contract following the
passage of the Staggers Act.

Again, let's -- the most consequential collective bargaining around during this period from the passage of Staggers to the current period was the contract covering the period from January 1988 through -- it's actually mid-1988 through the end of 2004. And that covered the period of the contract which was imposed by Congress resulting from failed recommendations of PEB 219. And I want to talk about that a bit.

If you look on Page 4 of my submission, you'll see some details in that respect. Between 1990 and March 1991, the U.S. Economy was at that throws of a recession. PEB 219 hearings were held in May of 1990, and the

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1	report of that board was submitted to the	1	said, this was a really the 219
2	President on January 15, 1991.	2	recommendations were born out of the financial
3	In calendar year 1991, Class I railroads	3	position that the Carriers found themselves in
4	posted an operating ratio of over 100 percent.	4	during that year right preceding that net
5	And for the first time in 84 years, they	5	income deficit loss in that year.
6	suffered net income deficit. So that's pretty	6	And then I quote here what the Carriers,
7	incredible. It's actually 84 years from today,	7	their basic argument was in that case. The
8	but when the Harris board was sitting in PEB	8	Carriers argue that they could avoid major
9	219, that would have been 54 years, okay. So	9	deterioration in their financial position by
10	as they sat there, it would have been a half	10	1995, but only if wages do not rise and the
11	century before they saw a financial condition	11	industry enjoys productivity gains going well
12	of the industry as perilous as it was during	12	beyond what is possible under the current labor
13	the 1991 recession.	13	agreements, unquote. And that was kind of in a
14	And I think and clearly the record	14	nutshell how the Board described the Carriers'
15	shows both the consequences of the	15	position before that. And it was a persuasive
16	recommendations that were reached and also the	16	argument as I show in the following page.
17	record in that case clearly demonstrates that	17	On Page 5, I'm just outlining a few of
18	that financial position at the time was a major	18	the recommendations that changed the lives in
19	driving force in the recommendations that were	19	more than one way of railroad workers. The
20	made. And I think Ken Gradia referred to that	20	first of course was it was a six-and-a-half-
21	yesterday when he was describing that round of	21	year term. And real pay was cut by 12.6
22	bargaining, he said essentially the same. He	22	percent. And as Ken Gradia reported yesterday,
	Page 920		Page 921
1	the nominal increase over the entire six-and-a-	1	calculating the impact on those that would be
2	half period was 10 percent. And it resulted in	2	affected by going to 130 miles.
3	that 12-and-a-half to 12.6 percent cut in real	3	The Carriers pushed back on that and
4	pay.	4	said, wait a minute, we have a big segment of
5	The second bullet point indicates that	5	the unit that is engaged in yard service, and
6	there were kind of major substantive changes in	6	they won't be affected. And of course we have
7	the health and welfare with the adoption of	7	those engaged in through freight service that
8	managed care and copays for drug were added for	8	work under 108 hours 108 miles today. So
9	both ER and drugs and other services.	9	they won't be impacted.
10	For the operating crafts, both the	10	So in the end, the Carriers calculated
11	engineers and the conductors, the basic day was	11	that that would result when you spread that
12	increased from 108 hours to 130 miles. That	12	across the entire BLE unit would result in a
13	was resulting in a cut in earnings for all of	13	cut in earnings of 4.5 percent.
14	those engineers and conductors that were	14	Now I mention that because you have
15	assigned at through freight service.	15	elsewhere in this record this notion that there
16	Now there was some debate in that record	16	was never been a pay cut for employees
17	as to what the impact on the conductors and	17	resulting from the argument that financial
18	engineers would be by increasing the daily	18	position of the Carriers couldn't afford it.
19	the basic day. And I went back and looked at	19	Well, that's historically not true. In
20	some of those numbers, and the debate was about	20	fact, there are other occasions that I could
21	the BLE in particular was arguing that the	21	mention back in the very early days where the
22	impact would be great and that it was	22	Carriers themselves moved and filed 6s to have

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1	to cut pay across the industry, which were	1	you have an expansion of the territory that
2	ultimately agreed to. So it is not true that	2	production gangs had to cover, and that
3	the that pay cuts were not absorbed by	3	elevated of course the concern and requirement
4	railroad workers historically.	4	that those employees be reimbursed for their
5	A second example of that also follows	5	expenses away from home.
6	one of the recommendations that were made to	6	Just as an aside, this is not a topic I
7	the effecting the TCU. The TCU salaries	7	want to focus on at this point, but I heard
8	were restructured. That's a euphemism for wage	8	testimony this morning about how 298, you know,
9	cuts. And that resulted in 11 percent decline	9	let's just update the allowances that 298 did
10	in TCU earnings. So that's a second example of	10	for the cost of living. Well, that's a
11	where this kind of perilous economic condition	11	ridiculous proposition under circumstances
12	resulted in pay cuts for employees.	12	where the seniority units were combined in a
13	The last example I have here is for the	13	territory covered by a production game
14	BMWE, and this is significant because you have	14	expansion geometrically across the system
15	before you, and you'll hear from other	15	because of mergers and the 219 recommendation.
16	witnesses on this subject, but what happened in	16	Okay. So that said, so this is just a
17	219 was there was an expansion of the senior	17	sampling of what during this round of
18	districts. In order words, a combination of	18	bargaining to rail labor. And when you look at
19	seniority districts that resulted in these	19	the history of bargaining, and when you look at
20	roving production gains across the seniority	20	the history of wage change over the period
21	district. When you combined that with the mega	21	following Staggers, it's unfair to just simply
22	merges that occurred in the early mid-1990s,	22	start at 2005 in my view. I think you have to

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	-	
1	look at what was, and you cannot ignore, what	1
2	was the most consequential bargaining cycle in	2
3	a post-Staggers era.	3
4	So what followed and the reason why I	4
5	say earlier in this that this was a it was a	5
6	PEB failure, if you will, and that is because	6
7	everybody understands that the ultimate	7
8	objective of a PEB is to come to	8
9	recommendations that ultimately motivate the	9
10	employees to enter a consensual agreement.	10
11	Well, that didn't happen following PEB, as you	11
12	know.	12
13	There was one organization that I did	13
14	not participate in, in PEB 219. They had their	14
15	own subsequent Presidential Emergency Board	15
16	220. But the organizations that did	16
17	participate, and that would be all of the	17
18	others, only three of them managed to enter	18
19	into voluntary agreements following PEB. The	19
20	rest of them covering about 77 percent of the	20
21	entire unionized Class I workforce declined to	21
22	enter into agreements following those	22

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1	recommendations.
2	And so there was a very short strike.
3	It lasted some 15, 17 hours following the
4	rejection and the expiration of the cooling off
5	period following the recommendations. But that
6	ended quickly by Congress when they passed
7	Public Law 102-29, which imposed the terms
8	recommended by PEB 219. And that was signed by
9	President Bush on April 18, 1991.
0	Now as with all recommendations made by
1	emergency boards, they're not self-implementing
2	because they're it's generally an outline
3	for how the parties should reach an agreement.
4	And it's not a generally does not involve
5	exact contract language. So there were all
6	kinds of disputes as to what exactly that the
7	PEB recommended.
8	So they went to a special board, which
9	was created as part of the Public Law 102-29,
0	and that public board again enabled the
1	President to appoint the special board to
2	render clarifying decisions on the application

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1	of the recommendations that were made. And	1	mean, it was a disaster for the Unions for the
2	those clarifying decisions were rendered on	2	reasons that I point out. And again, these are
3	July 18, 1991. That's more than six months	3	just examples of the most egregious changes
4	after the report was issued.	4	that were made under the PEB recommendations,
5	So by early 1992, you had and this	5	and then imposed by Congress. There were
6	was more than four years after the amendable	6	others in that list.
7	date of the contract. You had contracts were	7	So that's the context in which I you to
8	finally signed by the Carriers and the	8	view the wage history between deregulation and
9	organizations. The IAM had its own PEB. Those	9	our current period. And for that purpose I
10	recommendations were also rejected by the	10	have put together an examination of the change
11	Union, because they simply rubber stamped the	11	in the employment cost index covering all
12	results of 219. The IAM rejects those. They	12	American workers as compared with the change in
13	struck CSX. That strike went on for a little	13	the average rate for Class I employees.
14	bit before the Congress stepped in again and	14	Now you can see that from 1979 up until
15	passed a law that said you have to submit the	15	1989, preceding the effective date of the
16	dispute to final and binding arbitration. That	16	imposed contract, there was a slight difference
17	arbitrator's decision was rendered in July 30,	17	between the employment cost index and the blue
18	1992. And so you had more than four and a half	18	line there on the bottom, which is all of rail
19	years after the amendable date of that	19	labor. But that was expanded greatly, in fact,
20	contract, all Unions filing under contract.	20	to 17 percent. The gap grew to 17 percent by
21	So the point with this exercise is to	21	the end of the imposed agreement.
22	demonstrate that this was a failed PEB. I	22	It has taken 25 years and five rounds of

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bargaining for the rail unions to kind of claw 1 now that you've raised it. There's a 1 2 back that deficit that they suffered under 219. 2 difference between the parties as to how you 3 3 And so today that gap of 17 percent as these calculate this change. I have -- what I do is 4 4 I collect all the Collective Bargaining numbers indicate is closed to nine percent by 5 5 the amendable date of our contract. Agreements and I have them going back to the 6 '30s. So then I create a model which shows you 6 So clearly the rail organizations have caught up just a bit. Even though I would 7 the contract-by-contract change negotiated in 7 8 the general wage increase, excluding COLAs that 8 argue that they have not caught up all the way 9 and there's still a meaningful wage gap. 9 aren't rolled in, excluding such things as lump 10 But in the Carriers' material --10 sums, excluding skill differentials or any BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: Mr. Roth, can I 11 other adjustment in cash compensation that 11 12 doesn't affect the general population. In 12 just understand this chart represents? Is this 13 other words, it's not across the board. I 13 rate of change or is this salary level? 14 think it's what Ken Gradia would call, you 14 MR. ROTH: This is the cumulative know, a structural increase. increase in the wage rate resulting from 15 15 16 general wage increases. 16 And so that chronology of change then is 17 then -- I then take the employment mix as of a 17 BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: So it's just 18 point in time. In this case it would be 2019, 18 the amount of the increase, not where they end 19 up in terms of dollars. 19 the year preceding our amendable date, and I 20 would -- and using the employment mix at that 20 MR. ROTH: Correct. 21 point, all I have to do is punch that into the 21 BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: Okay. 22 current date, and my model will automatically 22 MR. ROTH: And let me explain further

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1	compute a wage chronology for that particular	1
2	wage rate going back historically.	2
3	So what you're looking at is the change	3
4	in general wages across the board, GWIs across	4
5	the board cumulative from 1979 through the	5
6	current date converting that to an index.	6
7	Now remember, too, that the employment	7
8	cost index is just that. Employment cost index	8
9	is designed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics	9
10	to also control for changes in the mix of	10
11	industry and of occupations. So I am	11
12	replicating in my approach the exact same	12
13	method that the BLS would use to chronical the	13
14	wage change that private sector workers have	14
15	experienced.	15
16	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Except the BLS data	16
17	for '79 would reflect the mix in '79. If I	17
18	understood correctly, you took the mix in 2019,	18
19	and then assumed that mix was true over all the	19
20	years, so you were comparing apples to apples	20
21	and filtering out the effect of changes among	21
22	the proportion of one craft versus another.	22
		1

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Did I follow correctly, or do I misunderstand?
MR. ROTH: For the railroad line?
CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: From your chart that
we're looking at.
MR. ROTH: Yeah, the railroad line is
controls for the change in mix of
classifications or the weight that any
particular craft has in the mix of all railroad
jobs. It controls for that.
CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Right.
MR. ROTH: It's reflecting only change
in the wage rate.
CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Right. And that was
done by taking the 2019 mix
MR. ROTH: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: and then assuming
that was the mix over all the years.
MR. ROTH: Correct.
CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: That's what I
thought. The ECI data as the mix changes,
you didn't change the 79 ECI data. You just
took it as it was.

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	Page 932		
1	MR. ROTH: Yes, I just used the ECIs	1	share of t
2	index, the published index.	2	principally
3	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Then I'm following.	3	subcontra
4	Thank you.	4	the other
5	MR. ROTH: Okay. And as you can	5	all railroa
6	appreciate, this is a technical point, but it's	6	of some o
7	important. Because when you're looking at the	7	increase.
8	railroad industry, the mix changes as within	8	upward, v
9	craft and across crafts. For example, within	9	negotiate
10	the BMWE craft, we have over time a	10	So I'
11	substitution for machine operators, high-	11	Carriers d
12	skilled machine operators for trackmen as new	12	that. The
13	technology is brought in. As that happens, you	13	time all th
14	have wage drift in terms of the average	14	let me ad
15	straight time hourly rate within the craft, not	15	that. Bec
16	because of wage change that is negotiated, but	16	chart, we'
17	simply because you have a change in the weight	17	that work
18	that the machine operator has relative to the	18	opposed f
19	low paid trackmen.	19	directiona
20	The same is true with the industry as a	20	What
21	whole. Over this period of time, I've found	21	look at wi
22	that the shop crafts have diminished in the	22	historicall

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share of total railroaded employment,
principally because they've been victimized by
subcontracting and unit exchange more so than
the other crafts. And so as their wait out of
all railroad occupations diminishes, the weight
of some of the higher paid say T&E crafts
increase. And that also can cause a wage drift
upward, which exaggerates the actual change in
negotiated wages.
So I'm trying to control for that. The
Carriers don't as I can detect, don't do
that. They were looking at average straight
time all the rates year in and year out. But
let me add that I'm not making a big deal about
that. Because directionally as you look at my
chart, we're not disagreeing as to the progress
that workers have made from 2005 forward as
opposed from '79 to 2005. I think
directionally our numbers would line up.
What I'm suggesting is that when you
look at where the rail labor is today
historically and what kind of progress rail

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labor has made with respect to wage	1	employment cost index, and once again using the
negotiations, you cannot discount you cannot	2	Class I average rate. Now, this is total
exclude that period of time represented by the	3	compensation. This includes all elements of
period the six-and-a-half-year period where	4	compensation that are used by the BLS in its
there was essentially, you know, a three-year	5	construction of the employment cost index
wage raise resulting from an imposed contract.	6	covering total compensation. But hereto I use
This was not a voluntary deal. This was not	7	the same methodology in replicating what the
something accepted by real labor that was	8	BLS does by controlling for the mix over time.
imposed. And that's a significant difference	9	And I should have mentioned, when time
from all of the other wage deals that were made	10	creating this wage chronology that we're using
over the course of the post-Staggers period.	11	both for compensation and for wage and salary
And as you can see from the chart, that	12	change, that when you go back far enough, you
disparity between rail workers and the rest of	13	will go into a period of time where there are
the world was narrowed only at the bargaining	14	sent per hour increases. And so that means
table for subsequent, you know, five rounds and	15	that in order to translate this into a
25 years of negotiation, which I am suggesting	16	percentage, you have to reflect the percentage
should not and cannot be ignored.	17	change on one of the crafts. So for this early
Now I also have an analysis that looks	18	part of the chronology, I'm using the shop
similar kind for this actually, it's not on	19	craft wage increases just for illustration.
the slides. It's on Page 7 of the submission,	20	But it will again not be perceptively different
Mr. Chairman, and I deal the same thing with	21	if I used the BMWE or anybody else.
total compensation. Once again, using the	22	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: And when you did the
Page 936		Page 937
Page 936 cost of compensation, things like Harris COLA	1	Page 937 reflected in the Employment Cost Index for
-	1 2	
cost of compensation, things like Harris COLA		reflected in the Employment Cost Index for
cost of compensation, things like Harris COLA are ignored or they're used on a snapshot basis	2	reflected in the Employment Cost Index for railroad employees?
cost of compensation, things like Harris COLA are ignored or they're used on a snapshot basis or something else?	2 3	reflected in the Employment Cost Index for railroad employees? MR. ROTH: Yes. It would be my data,
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			-
1	instructing the board on what you do with these	1	a little bit more the slope of this line is
2	facts, I just wanted to round out the record	2	a little bit steeper because it doesn't include
3	and make certain you understood that there is	3	the change in the composition of the workforce
4	no extraordinary wage change associated with	4	over time. But that's true of the U.S.
5	rail negotiations. The Carriers can arrive at	5	business sector as well as calculated by the
6	that conclusion only by cherry-picking a base	6	BLS.
7	date. Unless they start in 2005, they can't	7	So again, we have an apples to apples
8	make the argument.	8	look. But it kind of corroborates what we've
9	So, you need to look at the entire	9	been saying about the rail unions not enjoying
10	picture before you draw any conclusions	10	any extraordinary total compensation change.
11	regarding the relative wage and compensation	11	It just has kept up with the rest of U.S.
12	change that the rail unions have accomplished.	12	business. And you can't draw any conclusions
13	There's one last measure that I offer.	13	as suggested by the Carriers that there is
14	This one by the way is it's also apples to	14	something extraordinary happened and that, you
15	apples in terms of using the BLS data from	15	know, we have done far better than everybody
16	their series on productivity and costs. But	16	else. That's certainly not the case when you
17	here on lifting from the AAR material what they	17	look at comparison with rail labor and the rest
18	have calculated to be total compensation per	18	of the U.S. business sector.
19	hour worked from 1979 up until the current	19	I want to move on to a description of
20	until 2020. And this series that's produced by	20	rail labor's position on general wage
21	the AAR will suffer from that wage drift that I	21	increases. Let me begin on a positive note by
22	talked about. So, you'll see that this line is	22	recognizing a fundamental agreement between me

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	5	
1	and the counsel for the Carriers, Monroe and	1
2	Ken Gradia and his testimony as well. Both of	2
3	them cited some of my testimony before PEB 219.	3
4	In that case, by the way, I represented all the	4
5	organizations. I had several appearances.	5
6	There was a lot of material there from which to	6
7	quote me.	7
8	But they quote me as saying that in	8
9	assessing how to resolve a bargaining dispute,	9
10	bargaining and history and the tradition	10
11	between the parties are the board's best guide.	11
12	And I said that, and I said more than that, and	12
13	I would ask you to go to the Carriers' appendix	13
14	where they have my entire testimony or	14
15	statement reproduced and read the rest of what	15
16	I said. Because it is true, and I said that,	16
17	and I said it probably a hundred times after	17
18	that case in the next 32 years that it is	18
19	bargaining history and tradition between the	19
20	parties that the board should look to when	20
21	determining what weight and emphasis to be	21
22	placed on wage determining factors, because	22

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1	that would be your best guide in creating
2	recommendations that result in a consensual
3	agreement and a durable agreement.
4	And so, we agree on that basic
5	proposition. What we don't agree on is what
6	the history is and how long of a history you
7	should look to. Now I would say that as I do
8	on Page 9 of my report, that the cost-of-living
9	factor is the most frequently advanced wage
10	criterion in collective bargaining arbitration.
11	And I think you can gather that support for
12	that conclusion in the general arbitrator case
13	law and the emergency board literature, which
14	is replete with affirmative statements on the
15	high degree of relevancy of cost-of-living
16	changes in the wage determinate process.
17	You should also of course as experienced
18	as this board is reflect on your own experience
19	in this regard and how often you were in a
20	arbitration case where the cost-of-living
21	factor was relevant and weighty consideration

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in your own determination. After all, this is

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1	a fact-finding proceeding. You're not confined	1	Now when I talk about wage
2	as you might be in an arbitration case to the	2	maintenance of real wages, that's of course a
3	record that's being made. You can draw on your	3	minimum standard. What we're saying is that if
4	own experience in that regard.	4	you would apply that strictly and exclusively,
5	Further, we know that there's a lot of	5	it's too rigid. It wouldn't allow for wages,
6	jurisdictions around the country in the public	6	the flexibility to move upward in order to
7	sector generally where we have compulsory	7	provide workers with an improvement and the
8	arbitrations, statutory arbitration. There's	8	quality of living through advancing real pay.
9	numerous such laws covering police and	9	And we argue that railroad workers are entitled
10	firefighters and urban transit workers across	10	to share in the progress and the prosperity of
11	the country. You know I looked at most of	11	railroad industry, and that is to be measured
12	those enabling statutes that govern interest	12	in terms of rising real wages.
13	arbitration will have statutory standards and	13	I have a chart on Page 10 as well that
14	factors. You know there's none of them, not a	14	kind of compares the change in the CPIW with
15	single one that has that does not reference	15	the Employment Cost Index for all private
16	the cost of living as particularly changes	16	workers. You saw the ECI line before. This is
17	in the cost of living that are required of the	17	in wages and salaries only. But you can see
18	arbitrator to rely upon primarily. Now among	18	that there is some relationship in changes in
19	other factors of course, but cost of living is	19	wages and changes in the cost of living. So,
20	always there. It's a given that it has to	20	I'm not the only one that is suggesting that
21	carry weight in any kind of determination of	21	this be a weighty and important consideration
22	wage change.	22	in your deliberations. I think that's a main

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22

	2	
1	driver, a wage change throughout the economy.	1
2	We can always look to the bargaining	2
3	history of the parties as well. Now the	3
4	Carriers have focused on the last five or six	4
5	rounds of bargaining. I think there's been,	5
6	what, seven rounds since the passage of	6
7	Staggers. And they focused on the nominal	7
8	change that the parties had agreed to over that	8
9	period of time. But the real bargaining	9
10	history is a lot older than that. And I am	10
11	suggesting that you look beyond the last few	11
12	contracts and consider what the parties have	12
13	agreed to both in terms of nominal change and	13
14	real wage change in particular for a period of	14
15	time that precedes the passage of the Staggers	15
16	Act.	16
17	Between 1947 and 2019, there were	17
18	twenty-five national wage agreements in the	18
19	railroad industry. Of these 25, 20 of them	19
20	provided for real wage change. And the average	20
21	real wage increase over the course of those	21

twenty agreements was 2.7 percent per year.

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2.7 percent per year.
Now if you include those five contracts,
including the imposed deal in 1988, into that
mix, then the average all twenty-five
contracts would have produced real wage
increases averaging 1.6 percent of contract
term. That's the parties' bargaining history.
That's the frame of reference. That's what's
acceptable to the parties. 1.6 per year in
real wage change.
Looking to the last few contracts is
shortsighted when we have a bargaining history
that spans decades and decades. This labor
relationship began, I don't know, with the
Erdman Act, I guess, this 1888, and probably
1886, which was the passage of the Federal
Arbitration Act, but we are talking about a
long bargaining history. And so, it's
shortsighted to simply say that let's do what
the parties have done, but let's just look at
what they've done over the last few years.
Now the parties agree that, like I said,

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1 barga	ning history matters. And we're going to	1	per year or contract term exceeded 10 percent
2 addre	ss that more thoroughly in rebuttal,	2	per year. So, to say that, well, you know,
3 becau	se I have something to say about the	3	we're proposing 3.2 percent a year in nominal
4 contra	cts that they focused on. And I would	4	wage change during a period of time where we
5 say, f	or example, that this is just a	5	have historically low inflation, and that
6 previe	w of what I'm going to develop more	6	should be a model for an agreement covering a
7 thorou	ighly in my next statement in rebuttal,	7	period of time where we have the highest rate
8 but th	ey're looking at the rail history from	8	of inflation in 42 years is ridiculous.
9 1985	forward. The nominal annual wage increase	9	But I'm going to get to more of that.
10 over t	he preceding seventeen rounds of	10	And I'm going to give you the support by the
11 barga	ning average 6.5 percent per year. And	11	way in kind of the contract-by-contract
12 that c	ompares with the organization's proposed	12	information that I just referenced going back
13 annua	l increase of 5.6. So even if you were	13	to 1947. But I didn't anticipate this big
14 going	to look at nominal change, which I don't	14	debate, so it's not in my affirmative
15 think	s the proper indicator, I think real	15	presentation.
16 wage	change is, but even if you look at nominal	16	And I can go further with this as I do
17 chang	e, our proposal comports with seventeen	17	on Page 11 of the submission quoting PEB 243.
18 round	s of bargaining preceding the date that	18	It was the intention of 243 that there be real
19 the Ca	rriers focus on.	19	wage improvement. The board said, and I quote,
20 T	he Carriers' proposal of course is for	20	"the recommendations" and this is the wage
21 3.2 pe	rcent per year. Under 6 of these	21	recommendation they're talking about, "also
22 seven	teen prior rounds, nominal wage increase	22	continues to trend the recent agreements

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1	negotiated between the parties and provides for	1
2	a measure of real wage growth over its life,"	2
3	unquote.	3
4	Now, in fact, the consequence of 243 was	4
5	to increase nominal pay by 15.6 percent over	5
6	term when the cost of living rose 8.6 percent.	6
7	That's a real wage increase of 6.4 percent over	7
8	term or 1.4 per year. Interestingly, right on	8
9	the mark of what happened with the parties over	9
10	the past, I don't know, 73 years. Almost three	10
11	quarters of a century. We're suggesting a	11
12	similar result here.	12
13	So again, the Carriers acknowledge that	13
14	wage change should be consistent with the	14
15	parties' past agreements. We just have a	15
16	difference of opinion on when you start to	16
17	account for that history. And secondly,	17
18	whether we should look at nominal wage change	18
19	versus real wage change. Because to me,	19
20	looking at nominal wage change alone tells you	20
21	nothing under circumstances where those kind of	21
22	deals were made over historically low inflation	22

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rates. our position is simple as that.
Now I want to go to the chart that's
posted now. It's apparent from the data with
respect to real wage change that the imposed
1988 contract was an aberration in rail labor's
bargaining history. And like with nominal wage
change, in terms of real wage change, it's
taken 25 years and five bargaining cycles to
erase the 12-and-a-half percent real wage cut
that rail labor suffered under 219.
So, by the amendable date of the last
agreement, which was December of 2019, the
living standard of the rail worker was barely
above that achieved by his grandfather working
on the railroad 40 years earlier. And here

again I'm using the shop craft as an example. Over the last eight agreements, real wages rose 252 percent. The cost of living only went up 224 percent. So that's a real wage gain of eight-and-a-half percent over this

40-year period. But that's less than two-

tenths of a percent per year.

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	2		2
1	So, a consequence of that 12-and-a-half	1	less than what we have historically agreed to
2	percent cut is evident in the bargaining that	2	over time.
3	occurred thereafter. We had to it took a	3	So, let's go through the math here,
4	long time to close the gap. And I would argue	4	because this is important, and it will reveal
5	today on the amendable date, rail labor has	5	some serious differences between the Carriers'
6	closed the real wage gap. And there's no	6	look at this world look at their proposal
7	there's no current lag if you stop at the	7	and our proposal and theirs. But let's look at
8	amendable date and not consider what's going on	8	the Unions' affirmative case.
9	past January of 2020. And that's shown in the	9	Okay. So, what you have in the left-
10	chart that's on the board there.	10	hand side of the table are the effective dates.
11	Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask you to	11	In the next column over, I'm using the CPIW,
12	focus on this chart here. This is development	12	and I'm just laying forward or laying in that
13	of the rational that lies behind the Unions'	13	central, that column next over, the actual CPI
14	proposal. I want to impress upon you the fact	14	numbers through June of 2022, which is the last
15	that this wage proposal, the 66844, these are	15	known CPI, the last one available. The board
16	not numbers that are pulled out of thin air.	16	by the way just by way of just parenthetically
17	They're not numbers that we throw at the board	17	will have an advantage here because there's
18	and hope that something sticks. This is a very	18	going to be one more data point that you're
19	deliberate and carefully crafted wage position	19	going to have available to yourselves to plot
20	that with my guidance was intended to maintain	20	in this table before your deliberations are
21	real pay and provide a slight increment of real	21	complete, and you will have issued your report
22	wage gain that I believe will turn out to be	22	to the president. So, this can change slightly

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	rage 552		
1	as you can appreciate.	1	trailing
2	In the next column over I have the CPI	2	six mo
3	where I convert it to an index where December	3	S
4	19 equals a hundred. That's the month before	4	than fo
5	the amendable date. So over time, or through	5	fingers
6	June I should say, the first 30 months of the	6	probab
7	agreement, the CPI has risen 16.8 percent. You	7	0
8	see that in the index column. Okay.	8	now th
9	Now, the last six months of calendar	9	of the
10	year 2022 involve a projection. And as the	10	the CB
11	footnote indicates, I for this purpose have	11	percen
12	projected the CPI to rise at an annual rate of	12	forecas
13	four percent. Now the math is a little	13	pick th
14	trickier than just simply dividing that in two,	14	in '23.
15	but it's approximately two percent increase in	15	N
16	the CPI for the balance of the year. That's my	16	Annua
17	projection. I think it's optimistic. I think	17	this ye
18	when you see that July's CPI, it's not going to	18	That m
19	be anywhere close to being that slow. And, in	19	propos
20	fact, if you look at the trailing the	20	have r
21	trailing 12-month increase in the CPI is 9.8	21	N
22	percent. And the trailing I'm sorry the	22	Union

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trailing 12-month is 9.8 percent. The trailing
six month is 14.1 percent.
So, it's obviously running a lot hotter
than four percent. But I'm crossing my
fingers. I hope I'm right. But I think I'm
probably understating the case.
Okay. So, let's go forward. How about
now the third or the fourth and the fifth year
of the agreement. Well, there I am assuming
the CBO's projection of 3.1 percent and 2.4
percent. Now significantly, that's the same
forecast that the Carriers are using. They
pick the CBO's forecast as well. 3.1 percent
in '23. 2.4 percent in '24.
Now what happens if that comes true.
Annual rate of four percent for the balance of
this year. The CBO's forecast for 23 and 24.
That means that by the end of the contract, the
proposed five-year agreement, that CPI will
have risen 25.8 percent.
Now in the next column over you have the
Union proposal. And as you've already seen,

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1	we're proposing a cumulative wage increase over	1	than what we're saying. What if the annual
2	the time of 31.3 percent resulting in what I've	2	rate of inflation is five percent for the
3	calculated in the far right-hand column of the	3	balance of 2022. And in 2023 it's four
4	table of 4.4 percent. So, over the real wage	4	percent. And then it moderates in 2024 to
5	increase over the first three years agreement	5	three percent. Well, that means that's the top
6	under this scenario would be 1.9 percent or	6	table here, and that's the same model running
7	six-tenths percent per year. The annual rate	7	with different assumptions in the out years,
8	of increase over the entire contract would be -	8	and that would produce annual rate of increase
9	- over the five-year period would be 4.4	9	of .5 percent per year. Again, well below what
10	percent under this scenario, and that's an	10	the historical agreed upon standard has been.
11	annual rate of increase of .9 percent in real	11	Now where's the breakeven point? This
12	terms.	12	is kind of the worst-case scenario for us,
13	Now the .9 percent, think about it.	13	because it would erase all real wage
14	It's less than PEB 243 recommended. It's less	14	improvement under the Unions' proposal. What
15	than the last three contracts, which averaged	15	if we have a six percent annual rate of
16	one percent per year. It's less than the	16	inflation for the balance of the year? That
17	historical standard of 1.6 percent per year.	17	means that the next six months it goes up by
18	Now what I give you in the next bottom	18	roughly three percent. And then in 2023, its
19	of the table is a kind of a sensitivity	19	five percent, which again extraordinarily cut
20	analysis. Because I'm not confident that the	20	in the rate of inflation from where we are
21	CPI is going to be that slow. And so, what	21	today, and then it moderates further by
22	happens if it's increasing a little bit more	22	everybody's hope and desires to four percent in

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	zuge soo	
1	2024. Then it would be a breakeven contract	1
2	under that scenario. If those things come	2
3	true, it will be a breakeven scenario.	3
4	Now I'm going to compare this with what	4
5	the Carriers are proposing. And I have big	5
6	problems with Mr. David's calculations. First	6
7	of all, I think he made a big error in how he	7
8	calculated the actual change in the CPIU, which	8
9	he's using in 2020 and 2021. I think those are	9
10	just wrong numbers, and I'm going to explain	10
11	that to you in my rebuttal.	11
12	But set that infirmity aside, the real	12
13	egregious problem that I have with Mr. David's	13
14	forecast is that he's using the CBO's	14
15	projection that was made last May for the	15
16	increase in 2022, and that was 6.1 percent,	16
17	okay. He's saying our proposal is good because	17
18	we're going to only have inflation of 6.1	18
19	percent in 2022. Well, guess what, in the	19
20	first six months it's gone up by 6.8. So how	20
21	is it possible? Is he predicting that	21
22	inflation is going to not only abate, but it's	22

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	going to go down in the next six months. Raise
	your hand if you believe that.
	So, his forecast is wrong. It is just
	wrong because he's relying on a CBO number that
	was made before we've experienced the spikes
i	that we're currently enduring.
	So, you can just throw their analysis
1	out. I've got more to say about this. This
1	and the use of the CPIW versus the CPIU and the
	PCU in my rebuttal because just to give you
	a preview. Why are we using the CPIW? Because
	for 56 years these parties relied upon under
	one or more of their national agreements with
	an automatic cost of living escalator clause,
	and each one of those contracts they used the
	CPIW as the measure of wage of changing the
	inflation rate.
	Throughout the history of bargaining, I
1	could only find one occasion where the Carriers
	actually complained about the use of the CPI,
	the traditional CPI, and that was before the

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Harris board, TCU Harris board in 2003. I want

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	-		-
1	to say it's arbitrating board 253 or something	1	And like I've indicated and like I've
2	like that. That was the only time they raised	2	demonstrated here, it's not a made-up position.
3	the issue. And there was no opinion by Mr.	3	It's not pulled out of thin air. It was
4	Harris in that arbitration case. But there is	4	designed specifically to do what I'm showing
5	no evidence that that argument was ever	5	here. We wanted to get to a point where we
6	considered. And that's the only time it came	6	could have some modest real wage change9
7	up. Because in this round of bargaining, in	7	percent per year under the best of
8	the prior round of bargaining, in the case	8	circumstances. And I hope I'm right about
9	before you in 243, they relied upon this	9	that, but I'm not confident. I think that
10	traditional CPI. And I can prove every one of	10	probably will disappear and we're going to see
11	those points and I will.	11	evidence of that when the July CPI comes out.
12	So, I think it's a little bit late in	12	Okay. Moving forward. I know I'm
13	the process by complaining about the	13	running out of time here. On Page 16, I have a
14	substitution bias in the CPI. It's a little	14	section of the role of labor costs and
15	bit late. And again, I ask you to draw on your	15	productivity. And I just want to make a couple
16	own experience how often have you relied upon	16	of points with regard to this material, Mr.
17	the CPI, either the U or the W, in your own	17	Chairman. This is I don't know if I have a
18	deliberation over the role that cost-of-living	18	slide on this or not. I have a productivity
19	changes play in the making of a wage agreement.	19	slide.
20	So, but anyway, we're going to get into	20	Okay. On Page 16 of the submission, you
21	that more in the rebuttal. So, this is the	21	have I'm laying out the labor ratio as we
22	basic purpose of rail labors wage proposal.	22	call it. I have this number going back to the

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I age 500		
1 '20s. I think I looked at it from 1929	1	such that labor
2 forward. And I noticed that from 1929 to	2	as you can see,
³ deregulation in 1980, that number was constant	3	percent. Those
4 at around 50 percent. Rail labor always	4	based on the in
5 claimed fifty cents on the dollar of revenue	5	that's 602 perce
6 historically. Since deregulation, that number	6	2005, if you me
7 has collapsed as you can see. So, rail labor	7	being 2004. It'
8 consuming this is the rail labor's total	8	hundred to it
9 labor costs consuming a smaller and smaller	9	index points to
10 percentage of the revenue dollar. Now it's	10	percent.
11 twenty-one cents. It was fifty cents back in	11	I'm sorry,
12 1982. And back in 2005 going back three	12	up 40 I missp
13 contracts ago, it was 32 percent. So it's	13	percent. Total
14 falling and has fallen precipitously.	14	And productivity
15 Productivity as this chart shows, and	15	relatively no,
16 you've seen a bunch of these numbers before	16	way around. Pr
17 from the Carriers. And you've seen it before	17	percent. That's
18 in my materials in the past. And we all know	18	you. I must be
19 that the recomposition of the railroad's	19	So even ag
20 networks in the first 25 years of deregulation	20	you have even
21 caused a collapse in employment and work hours,	21	continues to clir
and that accompanied by increase in traffic	22	a collapse in ma

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such that labor productivity rose precipitously as you can see, 604 -- or 500 -- it went up 602 percent. Those are the percentage increases based on the index numbers that are shown. So that's 602 percent over time. And even from 2005, if you measure this. There's a base here being 2004. It's gone from approximately five hundred to -- it's gone up from five hundred index points to seven hundred. That's up 40 percent.

I'm sorry, that's traffic. Traffic went up 40 -- I misspoke. Traffic went up by 40 percent. Total man-hours continued to shrink. And productivity from that point has been relatively -- no, I'm sorry, I had it the other way around. Productivity went up by 40 percent. That's the red line. Okay. Thank you. I must be getting tired.

So even again over that period of time you have even with flat traffic productivity continues to climb because we continue to have a collapse in man-hours and employment.

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1	Now I want to look at the next chart and	1	stages. First you had the 60 percent cut from
2	this is rail employment. The point I'm making	2	1980 to 1984. And then we have the mega
3	here is that the productivity climb over the	3	mergers kicking in. We lost another 17 percent
4	last decade, and even the current period from	4	employment. And then we have this period of
5	2004, has been a painful experience for rail	5	stability. And it's only from 2015 when
6	labor because it's on the labor side and not	6	precision scheduled railroading began where we
7	the traffic side that all the volatility	7	have this continuing cut in employment, another
8	occurs. And, you know, man-hours have fallen	8	32 percent. But let me say something about
9	by 76 percent since 1979, and more than three-	9	this relationship between wages and employment.
10	quarters of the workforce has been abolished.	10	During this period of rapid
11	Now, the Chairman asked Dr. Murphy when	11	consolidation, the WAAR reported that there
12	he was describing his theory about the	12	were 232 regional and local line haul railroads
13	relationship between employment and wages; what	13	which were spun off from Class I railroads.
14	application that had to the rail industry. And	14	This is what Rich was talking about of the
15	I think he applied in the affirmative saying,	15	years of consolidation and the abandonments and
16	yeah, it applies everywhere because it's an	16	the sales.
17	economic reality.	17	The number of Class I railroads were
18	Well, I want to follow-up on something	18	thirty-nine at the time of deregulation. By
19	that Rich was saying during his presentation	19	this by 2004, there were nine left and now
20	about consolidation between in these early	20	there's seven, soon to be six. So you have
21	years where I'm showing you can see the	21	this restructuring of the networks that
22	stages here of rail employment. There's four	22	resulted in this massive change in employment.

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1	But my point is this. If railroad	1
2	workers decided to work for one dollar an hour	2
3	during this period of time, they still would	3
4	have been redundant. It had nothing to do with	4
5	the price of labor. It had to do with the fact	5
6	that my railroad disappeared. My line was	6
7	sold. Dr. Murphy's theory on, well, employment	7
8	I wish I would have known that. Maybe we	8
9	would have taken a wage cut. It wouldn't have	9
10	mattered. It wouldn't have mattered. He	10
11	doesn't understand what went on in this early	11
12	part of the railroad history.	12
13	In the bottom chart on Page 19, we have	13
14	employment headcounts over the recent period of	14
15	time. This is the 32 percent cut that I'm	15
16	talking about when the precision scheduled	16
17	railroading kicked in. Employment went from	17
18	160,795 in December of '15 down to 114,499 by	18
19	February '22.	19
20	Now I make the point on Slide 20 that	20
21	railroad productivity while being by	21
22	increasing not at the pace that we experienced	22

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in the first 25 years since deregulation is
still going up. And it's still outpacing all
U.S. business. That's reflected on the chart
on Page 20. But the whole point of this
exercise, the punchline, if you will, is the
impact that productivity in combination with
modest labor cost increases in traffic
advancement has on unit labor cost, that's the
bottom line where unit labor costs are
translated into profitability for the
railroads. I think when the railroads
criticized the Carrier's use, and me in
particular, of productivity as a factor in wage
determinations, they set up this strawman that
says, well, it's really not labor. It's
multifactor productivity. I'm not saying
I've never said this. I haven't said it to you
in prior cases. I've never said it anywhere
that it's extra effort by labor that's causing
the increase in labor productivity. It's
obviously other factors. And I mentioned in my
text here on Page 17, all of the varied sources

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1 of produ	ctivity increase, and they include	1	So that's an element of the overall
2 gains	they include technological change,	2	picture. But no one's ever said that it was
3 like char	ges in materials and repair equipment	3	only because the worker is working harder.
4 and med	hanization and automatization. It's	4	They're working smarter, but not necessarily
5 increase	s in skill and education of workers.	5	harder in this case.
6 That's tr	ue as well. There's capital	6	In any event, it's none of that that
7 efficienci	ies, like increased locomotive power	7	matters in a wage determination case. It's the
8 and car	capacity. There's the shrinking	8	impact that productivity has on changing unit
9 physical	plant, which we saw on an employment	9	labor costs. And if you look at the this
10 chart that	at's posted that's caused by that's	10	discussion begins at Page 20. And I say here
11 a reorga	nization of centralized control. It's	11	that the analysis of unit labor costs combines
12 abandon	ment of branch lines. All these sources	12	the effects of labor costs in productivity on
13 over the	year coalesce to improve the	13	the financial position of the employer, a
14 industrie	s efficiency and its productivity.	14	truism. Money receipts or revenues depend on
15 Now one	of them is the elevated skill of the	15	the quantity of output multiplied by the price
16 worker.		16	per unit. The cost of production depends on
17 I m	ean, take for example the example I	17	the quantity of inputs multiplied by the price
18 gave you	u before with the BMWE, where you're	18	paid for them per unit of output.
19 replacing	g a trackman with a skilled machine	19	So in the railroad industry, the
20 operator	. That's an elevation in the overall	20	quantity of the output is ton miles. That's
21 skill leve	l and the overall education and the	21	how we measure it. And it's rising relative to
all over a	responsibility of workforce.	22	the quantity of input causing an increase in

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1productive efficiency. But this effect can12potentially be offset by adverse price23movements, which is a point that the Carriers34often make, and that creates what has been45called by the Carrier experts a cost yield gap.56So, for example, the price per ton mile67may be falling because of stiffer competition78or slack demand or the price of inputs may be89rising because of wage increases or greater910demand in the factor markets for fuel and10
3movements, which is a point that the Carriers34often make, and that creates what has been45called by the Carrier experts a cost yield gap.56So, for example, the price per ton mile67may be falling because of stiffer competition78or slack demand or the price of inputs may be89rising because of wage increases or greater9
4often make, and that creates what has been45called by the Carrier experts a cost yield gap.56So, for example, the price per ton mile67may be falling because of stiffer competition78or slack demand or the price of inputs may be89rising because of wage increases or greater9
5called by the Carrier experts a cost yield gap.56So, for example, the price per ton mile67may be falling because of stiffer competition78or slack demand or the price of inputs may be89rising because of wage increases or greater9
6So, for example, the price per ton mile67may be falling because of stiffer competition78or slack demand or the price of inputs may be89rising because of wage increases or greater9
 7 may be falling because of stiffer competition 8 or slack demand or the price of inputs may be 9 rising because of wage increases or greater 9
8or slack demand or the price of inputs may be89rising because of wage increases or greater9
9 rising because of wage increases or greater 9
10 demand in the factor markets for fuel and 10
11 materials, or maybe because it's going up 11
12 because of uncontrollable healthcare costs. 12
13But what you have to look at in the role13
14that productivity plays and labor costs where14
15 they intersect in the determination of what the 15
16unit labor cost is. And so total labor unit16
17cost explain how productivity gains are17
18translated into the fatter bottom line.18
19And so what we have experienced over19
20time is that the labor costs have been20
21 moderating and going down while traffic, even 21
22during periods where it's been flatlined.22

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Other factor inputs have been going up relative
to labor, but unit labor costs have fallen.
And we can I show that in the graph on Page
21. Unit labor costs would be the red line.
And even where it's been going up, it's been
going up by a much slower rate than what the
rest of the economy and other corporations have
experienced, which I show on Page 22. As you
can see there, unit labor costs for Class I
railroads, which is the green line on the top
has gone up 44 percent since 2005. That's all
U.S. Business. I'm sorry. The Class I
railroads or the blue line at the bottom have
only gone up by 24 percent. So 24 percent for
railroads. Forty-four percent for the rest of
the economy.
So unit labor costs and changes to the
unit labor cost continue to kind of support the
railroad's ability to afford higher than normal
labor costs. It enables them to cover the cost

labor costs. It enables them to cover the cost of labor.

Okay. I'm going to move on to another

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topic. This is the Carriers' financial	1	they should be subordinate to other standards.
position, ability to pay segment. You already	2	I still say that today. I said that before 219
have a lot of information on this subject. And	3	as Counsel Munro pointed out, and I still
there's really no dispute over the numbers.	4	believe that today. I mean, it's the
The Carriers recognize that they are now in a	5	point is that I never said that ability to pay
period of unprecedented profitability and other	6	was irrelevant, not before 219. I said that it
metrics. In fact, all other financial metrics	7	should be a subordinate consideration to other
support the proposition that they're in a	8	important factors. But two points should be
better financial condition than they have ever	9	made with respect to those comments. And I'm
been, which puts you in a unique position,	10	going to give this to you in my rebuttal, but
because you are now witnessing or making a wage	11	this is the preview.
determination in an environment, which other	12	First of all, I'm going to give you the
PEBs have never experienced.	13	management's response to that. They
Now in my rebuttal there's going to be	14	essentially called me an idiot and said that
some discussion about the kind of weight and	15	this is total nonsense. Of course ability to
emphasis that the so-called ability to pay	16	pay is the only factor that matters. So
factor should be given. The Carriers have	17	they're on the other side of this argument that
already brought to your attention the fact that	18	they're now making before 219.
there was a time when rail organizations, their	19	The other point is that my argument was
advisers, particularly myself have argued that	20	unpersuasive. I lost the argument. The board
ability to pay and financial condition of the	21	determined that ability to pay was the main
company should be giving a lightweight; that	22	factor. And Ken Gradia agreed with me on that
Page 972		Page 973
when he testified yesterday saying that that	1	had that affect. And it can be proven with
was the driver for the wage recommendations	2	respect to 219. Other cases difficult to prove
that were made before PEB 219.	3	because PEB literature suggest that arbitrators

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So put all that together. But I'm going to get to a discussion about the materiality or the weight that ability to pay should be given in any case. But the other thing is this is all very predictable. Because remember when in 1970 when the great Penn Central fell. It was estimated at that point that 20 percent of the entire industry's capacity at that time was in bankruptcy. That's a pretty precarious position for an industry to be in.

So don't you -- wouldn't you think that for all of the years preceding 2004, before the renaissance took off and took hold, the Carriers would be arguing that that was the main reason, the main factor that should be taken into account in wage determination; that it should have a moderating effect on wage growth and total compensation growth. It's difficult to measure that. But I suspect it

because PEB literature suggest that arbitrators and boards generally have talked about it, but clearly waived other factors as well in making their recommendations. It was a blend.

But what we're saying now is that to whatever extent it had a moderating effect on wage change, it should have an accelerating effect today. And that's not to say that it's the only factor. It's not even to say it's the most important factor. But it can never be served as a defense against increases that otherwise under other circumstances where you have a weak employer, and a poor financial position could argue that wage change should be moderate. But I'm going to get to that later. Let's -- I want to round out the record,

if you will, with some of the other financial metrics. I think it's important that the board have this frame of reference. And of course at some point you will judge for yourselves what

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1	role it plays in your own decisions.	1	newfound pricing authority that these railroads	
2	Okay. So moving on. The first thing I	2	possess, particularly following the mega	
3	want to talk about is the revenue margin.	3	mergers in the mid 2000, '95, and	
4	Throughout the decades of the '80s and '90s,	4	thereabouts.	
5	rail prices were squeezed by stiff intermodal	5	So the principle factors that drove the	ĺ
6	competition from trucking and a shift in the	6	industry's new pricing authority are recorded	
7	composition of the traffic-base toward greater	7	on Page 24 of my submission. It involved a	
8	portions of lowered valued bulk commodities.	8	reduction of capacity through the elimination	
9	What the railroads call rate compression.	9	of excess supply of rail service. That's the	
10	So between 1982 and 2004, the yield,	10	consolidation that we talked about a moment	
11	which is the proxy for the average price of	11	ago, which resulted in getting rid of three	
12	rail services fell 27 percent. In real terms	12	quarters of your work force.	
13	it fell 57 percent. So I would agree with the	13	The second factor was a shrunken	
14	Carriers when they say that during the earlier	14	capacity enabled the railroads to focus	
15	years of Staggers, most of the benefits were	15	investment, capital investment in making the	
16	passed along to the shippers in terms of lower	16	core operations more efficient in proving their	
17	rates.	17	network velocities, transit times, on time	
18	The point is, however, that the trend	18	performance, and ultimately customer	ĺ
19	completely reversed itself over the last 15	19	satisfaction.	
20	years and yields have increased 87 percent	20	The third factor would have been the	
21	between 2004 and 2020. This is what Rich was	21	demand in the market segments, which the	
22	talking about when he said the newborn,	22	railroads hold and inherent cost efficiencies	
		I		
	Page 976		Page 977	
1	Page 976 and a market dominance, such as coal, grain,	1	Page 977 Well, today we have the consequence of	
1 2	_	1 2		
	and a market dominance, such as coal, grain,		Well, today we have the consequence of	
2	and a market dominance, such as coal, grain, those elements, and the traffic-base continued	2	Well, today we have the consequence of increased revenue margin, which is the	
2 3	and a market dominance, such as coal, grain, those elements, and the traffic-base continued to advance.	2 3	Well, today we have the consequence of increased revenue margin, which is the difference between the revenue and expense per	
2 3 4	and a market dominance, such as coal, grain, those elements, and the traffic-base continued to advance. So when you raise prices and you couple	2 3 4	Well, today we have the consequence of increased revenue margin, which is the difference between the revenue and expense per unit. It's the largest in the 41-year period	
2 3 4 5	and a market dominance, such as coal, grain, those elements, and the traffic-base continued to advance. So when you raise prices and you couple that with traffic volumes that were rising, you	2 3 4 5	Well, today we have the consequence of increased revenue margin, which is the difference between the revenue and expense per unit. It's the largest in the 41-year period since deregulation. So again, by this metric,	
2 3 4 5 6	and a market dominance, such as coal, grain, those elements, and the traffic-base continued to advance. So when you raise prices and you couple that with traffic volumes that were rising, you drive revenue, freight revenue to historically	2 3 4 5 6	Well, today we have the consequence of increased revenue margin, which is the difference between the revenue and expense per unit. It's the largest in the 41-year period since deregulation. So again, by this metric, the best ever.	
2 3 4 5 6 7	and a market dominance, such as coal, grain, those elements, and the traffic-base continued to advance. So when you raise prices and you couple that with traffic volumes that were rising, you drive revenue, freight revenue to historically high levels. And we haven't seen anything like	2 3 4 5 6 7	Well, today we have the consequence of increased revenue margin, which is the difference between the revenue and expense per unit. It's the largest in the 41-year period since deregulation. So again, by this metric, the best ever. Then we have the period of the mega	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	and a market dominance, such as coal, grain, those elements, and the traffic-base continued to advance. So when you raise prices and you couple that with traffic volumes that were rising, you drive revenue, freight revenue to historically high levels. And we haven't seen anything like that in the past 15 years.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Well, today we have the consequence of increased revenue margin, which is the difference between the revenue and expense per unit. It's the largest in the 41-year period since deregulation. So again, by this metric, the best ever. Then we have the period of the mega merger and the impact that it had on these	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	and a market dominance, such as coal, grain, those elements, and the traffic-base continued to advance. So when you raise prices and you couple that with traffic volumes that were rising, you drive revenue, freight revenue to historically high levels. And we haven't seen anything like that in the past 15 years. So what that does is sorry, I fell	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Well, today we have the consequence of increased revenue margin, which is the difference between the revenue and expense per unit. It's the largest in the 41-year period since deregulation. So again, by this metric, the best ever. Then we have the period of the mega merger and the impact that it had on these company financials. And it's again something	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	and a market dominance, such as coal, grain, those elements, and the traffic-base continued to advance. So when you raise prices and you couple that with traffic volumes that were rising, you drive revenue, freight revenue to historically high levels. And we haven't seen anything like that in the past 15 years. So what that does is sorry, I fell behind here. So on Page 25 of my statement you	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Well, today we have the consequence of increased revenue margin, which is the difference between the revenue and expense per unit. It's the largest in the 41-year period since deregulation. So again, by this metric, the best ever. Then we have the period of the mega merger and the impact that it had on these company financials. And it's again something the Rich was talking about. But the year 1995	
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1	following these mega mergers. They were	1	resulted in had a negative impact on the
2	complaining about how their because they had	2	financial performance among the merging
3	to finance by borrowing some of these	3	railroads, and they reported and this was
4	transactions' costs, and of course that was	4	widely chronicled in their reports to the
5	part of the plan. And so all of the metrics	5	shareholders in their annual reports. It was
6	which showed that debt climbing in the capital	6	in the public business press, and everybody
7	structure, all of that occurred during this	7	knew about what these congestion problems and
8	period.	8	how they were impacting the financials of the
9	But the adverse effects on integration	9	railroads.
10	on operating results were basically unforeseen,	10	And during those rounds of bargaining,
11	and that caused a lot of railroads to suffer	11	by the way, we heard plenty about these issues.
12	severe freight congestion, and that led to a	12	And again, the Carriers arguing that should
13	loss of revenue as traffic was diverted to	13	have a moderating effect on wage change and
14	competing modes. And so attempting to smooth	14	compensation change during those periods.
15	out the service disruptions, they have absorbed	15	Now by 2004 as is evident by all of the
16	during this period of time a lot of	16	profitability and pricing data, the operational
17	unanticipated expenses for like employee	17	integration had been complete. And in the end
18	overtime, locomotive leases, equipment rentals,	18	of this period as I showed on an earlier chart,
19	fuel usage, computer foul-ups. There was a lot	19	an additional 17 percent and about 32,000 jobs
20	of problems that the big railroads had in	20	were abolished. And by 2004, there were only
21	digesting the operations of the merger partner.	21	seven class railroads left. And those
22	So all of these merger related problems	22	surviving big four in particular had kind of

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1	certified rail market dominance.	
2	The gap is something I mentioned	
3	earlier. That's the difference between the	
4	cost of doing business and the revenue.	
5	Revenue per ton mile versus the cost of ton	
6	mile. And this was a metric that the in past	
7	negotiations and before emergency boards that	
8	the Carriers promoted relentlessly. I mean, I	
9	heard a lot about this. They invariably	
10	focused on the cross-field gap as a prominent	
11	indicator of financial distress. And I'm	
12	quoting one of their presentations before PEB	
13	228, 229 and 230. They testified that if this	
14	is not managed with dramatic change, it's a	
15	recipe for disaster. It said clearly the	
16	trends resulting in this increasing gap cannot	
17	continue indefinitely emphasizing the important	
18	of cost containment by rail management.	
19	So this was again a cause urged by the	
20	Carriers to kind of constrain wage change,	
21	constrain changes in compensation. They	
22	presented this over and over again in the PEBs	

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1	during this period of time, which involved one
2	of Member Twomey's cases in 229.
3	So my point here is that, again, like
4	all of these other financial metrics, the tide
5	has turned. It's flipped. If you look at the
6	chart on Page 27, that measures the cost field
7	gap. And these are just numbers that we've
8	seen from the Carriers year after year after
9	year, and they were illustrating how it has
10	grown from 1979 to 2003. That's the cost field
11	gap where railroad cost recovery index is going
12	up 174 percent, but our revenue per ton mile is
13	only going up by 9.7 percent. And in the words
14	of their experts, this is a disastrous result.
15	So the opposite is now true, which means
16	that there is no evidence today of any need for
17	cost constraint or moderate labor cost
18	increases. As you see on Page 28, which is
19	posted on the screen, the cost field gap has
20	reversed itself and now there's actually a
21	surplus, which by the way is the widest that
22	we've ever seen.

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Olender Reporting A Boutique Litigation Support Firm

Presidential Emergency Board No. 250

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Page 982	Page 9	983
1 CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Can I ask a question	1 that I'm posing is because did the	
2 to clarify. If we look at the chart on Page	2 reindexing have an effect on the way the sec	ond
³ 27, and then next the one on 28, it looks like	³ chart looks? We had a very large delta as of	
4 27 ends just before 28 starts, right, in terms	4 2003 at the end of the chart on 27.	
5 of the years?	5 MR. ROTH: Right.	
6 MR. ROTH: Yeah, this stops at	6 CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: And then it goe	es
7 CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: 03, and the other	7 immediately to even up because you've redef	ined
8 picks up at 04.	⁸ each of those things with a new base index.	
9 MR. ROTH: Right. These are these	9 And all I'm trying to understand is when we	
10 tick lines would be year-end, December.	10 move from one to the other, are they	
11 CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: I'm just trying to	essentially depicting things very differently	
12 under the two. They purport to measure the	12 even though they're the same two componen	ts,
13 same thing, but in different times frames, do	13 revenue per ton miles and then	
14 they not?	14 MR. ROTH: I think, Mr. Chairman, it's	
15 MR. ROTH: Yes. It's re-based. The	an anomaly in the way I built the charts. But	:
16 database would have all of those columns in.	16 if it would help you, I can give you just the	
And so one is a chart and a graph that indexes	17 continuation.	
¹⁸ it from '79 to 2003. And then if we re-base it	18 CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: I'm just simply	
and go from here to see what happened from that	19 trying to understand it. Because I would hav	e
20 point, it would be reflected in the chart on	20 thought that it had an impact based on the	
21 Page 28.	redefinition of index for both of the	
22 CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: And the question	22 components, that's all.	
Page 984	Page 9	285
		/05
1 MR. ROTH: Right. It's just an	1 years following deregulation. That's appare	
1 MR. ROTH: Right. It's just an2indication of what happened from that point	_	
	1 years following deregulation. That's appare	
2 indication of what happened from that point	 years following deregulation. That's appare from the 	ent
2 indication of what happened from that point3 forward.	 years following deregulation. That's appare from the Okay. So if you look at the chart on 	ent
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 2 indication of what happened from that point 3 forward. 4 CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: I understand. 5 MR. ROTH: From 2004 forward. 6 CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Okay. 	 years following deregulation. That's appare from the Okay. So if you look at the chart on Page 29 and the one that's up on the screet now, you can see what I'm talking about. Between the outset of deregulation and up 	ent n to is
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1	current dollars. And you would expect that to	1	So it's 7.1 percent in 2004. 30.2
2	be higher.	2	percent in 2021. Pretty impressive.
3	So let's look at the net income margin.	3	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: And the Ps are
4	That's the railroad's ability to earn a profit	4	projected for 2021?
5	on every revenue dollar that's generated. And	5	MR. ROTH: Those are preliminary.
6	that hit a record in 2021 as well. As a group,	6	Preliminary, yes. Not projected by me, but
7	all Class I railroads posted an income margin	7	preliminary by the STB. So STB will publish a
8	of 30.2 percent in 2022. That's on that's	8	number, but until they collect the R-1s and
9	shown on this chart here. And this is this	9	authenticate them, they don't come out with a
10	particular chart Mr. Chairman, I'm going	10	final number.
11	back a long time. I'm going back to 1911. I	11	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Thank you for
12	think I could go back further, but I thought	12	explaining the P.
13	one hundred years would be a good look.	13	MR. ROTH: So as with so many other
14	So the profit margin in 2021 is the best	14	important metrics with respect to
15	in 110 years of railroading. That's pretty	15	profitability, the railroad industry has
16	impressive. Remember, this is a percent of	16	outperformed the rest of U.S. corporations by a
17	profit is a percent of revenue. And if you	17	wide margin, and we show that on this graph
18	look at the margins, and we give you the data	18	here, which is now posted on the board. This
19	points on the bottom chart on Page 30, that's	19	is the increase in after tax profits. Again,
20	the 30.2 percent that I just referenced, and	20	2004 is the base. Railroads up 684 percent
21	see how that compares to where we were in 1980,	21	between 2004 and 2021. Profits for the rest of
22	or even 2004 when it was 7.1 percent.	22	U.S. corporations up 168 percent over the same
	Page 988		Page 989
1	Page 988 period. So their unit labor costs are better.	1	Page 989 success. So the railroads think this is a
1 2	_	1 2	success. So the railroads think this is a
	period. So their unit labor costs are better.		
2	period. So their unit labor costs are better. Their profits are better than the rest of	2	success. So the railroads think this is a pretty important number in determining how well
2 3	period. So their unit labor costs are better. Their profits are better than the rest of America. Next we have the operating ratio. And	2 3	success. So the railroads think this is a pretty important number in determining how well they're doing.
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2 3 4 5 6	period. So their unit labor costs are better. Their profits are better than the rest of America. Next we have the operating ratio. And that I already had here's the operating ratio. It's already on the screen. It's on	2 3 4 5 6	success. So the railroads think this is a pretty important number in determining how well they're doing. And as you can see on the chart here, in 2021 it was 62 for all of the railroads. It's actually smaller for the big four carriers. And
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1	examples where you're going to find that the	1	years, only one railroad reported issuing any.
2	rail organizations view of the world is going	2	And it was a small amount. It was like a \$2
3	to collide with the railroad's view of the	3	billion equity deal. And I'm going to show you
4	world because there's a difference between the	4	that they don't even use debt to finance their
5	theory of what should be and the reality of	5	or they don't use debt to debt isn't
6	what is. And in this instance, I agree with	6	required is the way I should put it to pay for
7	the theory that return on investments and other	7	their capital expenses.
8	bond ratings, other metrics of that kind that	8	Now nevertheless, having said that, I'm
9	debtors and equity holders look to must be	9	going to get into that a little more later. But
10	sufficient to encourage them to continue to	10	having said that, the industry representatives
11	invest or loan money to the Carrier so that	11	most frequently measure a railroad's success in
12	they can meet what are, I would agree, massive	12	obtaining adequate returns by comparing the
13	capital requirements. Okay. We've heard that	13	return on investment and rail assets with cost
14	time and time again from the Carriers.	14	to capital.
15	But let's look at the realty. The	15	It's argued that the railroad is revenue
16	return on capital is material only to the	16	adequate only when its rate of return on net
17	extent that the railroads are reliant on	17	investment equals or exceeds the current cost
18	external sources such as raising equity or	18	of capital. And for this measurement,
19	borrowing money. But they don't do either of	19	management points to the annual determinations
20	those things in large amounts. They haven't	20	of the Surface Transportation Board, which
21	issued they haven't had a stock issuance for	21	since 1979 has calculated the industry's cost
22	years. And in fact, I think over the last 10	22	of capital and compared that with their return

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1 on investment. 1 So the ROI average 4.4 percent during 2 Now the use of the STBs determination of 2 the 1980s. Then seven percent during the 3 3 1990s. Six percent from 2000 to 2004. But by revenue adequacy is controversial. I mean, I 4 4 questions it before. The shippers certainly 2004, the gap between the cost of capital and 5 question it because it's a trigger for setting 5 the rate of -- the return on investment stood 6 rates by the Carriers in certain circumstances. 6 at about 398 bases points. That would be the 7 So it's been controversial. But that said, the 7 measure on the graph at the 2004 mark. 8 Carriers rely on it heavily. 8 Now as with all other financial metrics, 9 And during the first 25 years of STB 9 Class I railroads have posted record results in 10 determinations following deregulation, that 10 achieving this statutory goal of revenue 11 goes from the period of 1980, again, to that 11 adequacy. In 2004, the STB cost of capital was 12 magic date of 2005, Class I railroads made slow 12 10.1 percent. And only one class railroad at 13 but steady progress in narrowing the gap 13 the time I think it was NS, exceeded the 14 between the cost of capital and the return on 14 numbers. So only one class railroad -- one 15 investments. 15 Class I railroad was determined to be revenue 16 And as I indicate in the following 16 adequate in 2004. Now the entire industry is 17 chart, the cost of capital has remained fairly 17 determined revenue adequate, because the STB's 18 level over time hovering at a 10 to 12 18 cost of capital in the last year in 2020 was 19 percentage range over that period. The return 19 7.89 percent. And -- I'm sorry. Yeah, the 20 on investment improves steadily, 20 cost of capital was 7.89 percent. Return on 21 notwithstanding the industry's ferocious 21 investment was 11.23 percent. 22 appetite for capital investment. 22 So again, you know, financial metrics

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1	that have served the Carriers in the past for	1	back into the company to cover your cab back's
2	arguing that there should be wage cost	2	expenses. And we all acknowledge that in the
3	suppression are now reversed and should call	3	railroad industry, they're relatively large
4	for wage cost acceleration.	4	compared to other corporations.
5	Return on equity is I think the last of	5	We also understand that profit that
6	these that I talk about, and the numbers there	6	cab backs is paid after that income is
7	are also impressive. I'll read them at you,	7	calculated on the income statement. I think
8	but they're on Pages 34 and 35. And like all	8	one of the witnesses made that point as though
9	other metrics, we are at historic levels.	9	no one understands that. Of course we do.
10	Now I want to talk a little bit about	10	But you see two numbers in this record
11	the next section moving forward, and this is	11	on investment by railroads in the
12	about the use of cash. And I call this	12	infrastructure. One of them is capital
13	section, you know, the Carriers are cash rich.	13	expenditures. The other one they call total
14	That's a high class problem.	14	investment in the infrastructure. That's the
15	So when profits are this high and	15	bigger number. That's the number that you see
16	liquidity is strong as it is with the Carriers,	16	in the record that's over \$20 billion a year.
17	corporations deal with the question of cash	17	But what that includes is the maintenance
18	distribution. And I think there was testimony	18	expense that's already built into operating
19	about this from one of the CFOs about their	19	expenses, and its above the net income line on
20	priorities on using profit and cash. And I	20	the income statement, okay. So there's two
21	think she said, and I would agree, that among	21	numbers.
22	the choices on distribution of cash is to plow	22	Net income is after maintenance

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1 1 Now the capital investment requirements, expenses. So I have maintenance of my 2 equipment. I have maintenance of my road. I 2 I talk about that on Page 35. We've already 3 3 have maintenance of my facilities. That's a laid out those numbers. And I would agree --4 there's a chart on Page 37 where I would agree 4 maintenance expense that's already accounted 5 for before I get to profit. When I get to 5 these numbers are large. That's the 22 -- that profit, that distribution is for capital 6 chart is on page -- yeah, here it is. It's up 6 7 on the screen now. It's on Page 37 of my 7 expenditures only. 8 8 So the first thing I talk about here is, statement, but you can see this is the bigger 9 okay, the first priority is to invest back into 9 number that I was talking about. This would 10 include maintenance expenses as well, okay. So 10 the company and cover by capital expenses. Now 11 11 after that's done, the company can choose to this is not capital expenditures per se. It 12 includes the total investment that the Carriers 12 pay down debt. They can enhance shareholder 13 13 returns or they can share that cash with other make in the infrastructure and equipment. And 14 those numbers are pretty big. Those are all --14 stakeholders. 15 in 2020 it was -- and it's a preliminary 15 So what the Carriers have focused on 16 historically and currently when they have this 16 number, but it was \$22 billion. But in the 17 previous five years it was nearly \$26 billion a 17 excess cash, they take care of their capital 18 vear. Those are large numbers. 18 requirements, which I agree they should. The 19 rest of it goes to the shareholder. They don't 19 And if you think about it, if you put 20 this in perspective, this is an important 20 share it with their workers. They don't give 21 investment particularly when you consider that 21 any shipper's relief. It all goes to the 22 over the same period of time, the Carriers are 22 shareholders.

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1	shedding track. So they're in 2020, the	1	capital expenditures. So my first obligation
2	industry spent \$42,000 per mile of road on	2	to pay my cab backs budget profit or I
3	capital expenditures compared with \$25,000 per	3	should say profit plus depreciation and
4	mile in 2004. So there was focus in large	4	deferred taxes, which are non-cash expenses are
5	investment per mile of road as the	5	sufficient to cover 200 percent of that
6	infrastructure continues to shrink, but the	6	obligation.
7	dollars continue to go up.	7	There's also borrowing of course. I've
8	So the question is, then, where do they	8	always got that facility. Now the trend among
9	get the money from for these capital	9	Class 1 railroads is to use internally
10	expenditures? Well, they've got strong cash	10	generated cash to finance capital requirements.
11	flow. This is a chart on Page 38. The	11	That's clear as a bell. That's again, I
12	persistent improvement in railroad net income	12	showed that on this chart that's on the screen
13	has enabled Carriers to lower their dependence	13	now. But railroads, they do borrow. They're
14	on equipment obligations and debt and rely	14	not expected to meet capital requirements
15	alternatively on internal cash flow to finance	15	entirely with cash from operations, because
16	needed capital expense.	16	incremental debt continues to be important,
17	Now cash flow defined as profit plus	17	important capital resource, and that's
18	depreciation amortization and deferred taxes.	18	particularly true in years of low interest
19	In 2019 was a record \$30.4 billion. Okay.	19	rates, and years in which the Carriers have
20	That's cash flow. And you can see that over	20	investment grade ratings for their unsecured
21	the five years from 2016 to 2020, internal cash	21	senior debt across all rating agencies, which
22	flow was sufficient to cover 200 percent of	22	they currently do.

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1	So they've got good credit ratings, so	1	at external sources of raising capital, they
2	borrowing is a good idea. It's a cheaper way.	2	would be issuing stock, equity in the company,
3	And this was also said by one of the CFOs	3	borrowing money, or leveraging your assets. A
4	yesterday. It's a cheaper way to finance	4	third would be the sale of assets. Sell off
5	capital expenditures than issuing stock or	5	some lines, that sort of thing.
6	issuing equity, okay. It's always available.	6	Now the third one, the sale of stock,
7	But the fact of the matter is they have	7	that has historically played a very minor role
8	lessened their dependency on borrowing as a	8	in capital financing. Over the last eight
9	means for supporting capital programs. And the	9	years, there have been no reported equity
10	evidence of this trend is found in the ratio of	10	sales. I mentioned that a minute ago. None.
11	long-term debt to capital, which averaged .3	11	The fact is strong cash flow together with the
12	during the '80s, 2.9 during the '90s, but has	12	availability of special debt vehicles, because
13	fallen off the chart since then. By 2020, the	13	low interest rates and the fact that the
14	debt to capital ratio was cut to .13, and	14	Carriers can secure debt with their physical
15	that's the lowest in the post-Staggers era.	15	assets, which are massive, they make issuing
16	So the evidence is that debt could be an	16	stock unnecessary.
17	important source of capital requirements or to	17	So they haven't used it to attract from
18	fund capital requirements, but it hasn't really	18	outside sources. So the chart that's up on the
19	been important. It's been of diminishing	19	screen and on Page 41 shows what has happened
20	importance to the railroads. The debt to	20	over the period from 2016 to 2019 as summary.
21	capital ratio chart is on Page 40 of my report.	21	Now they spent 52.2 billion on capital
22	Now as we mentioned, when you're looking	22	expenditures. All right. So profits could

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1	have covered 138 percent of that bill.	1	his pronouncement that there's one and only one
2	Depreciation covered 58.5 percent, and	2	social responsibility of business and that's to
3	another 11.5, another source of cash deferred	3	increase profits to the exclusion of all other
4	taxes would have covered 11 percent of that	4	stakeholders. That really has been adopted to
5	bill. So all told, the internal sources of	5	the maximum by corporate Class I railroads. All
6	capital funding far exceed the capital	6	they want to do is increase shareholder values.
7	expenditures. So all this talk in this record	7	That's where all the extra cash goes.
8	by the Carrier witnesses about these big	8	Now the first thing I want to talk about
9	capital requirements, and we've got to have all	9	in that regard is stock repurchase programs. We
10	of these profits, and we got to make our	10	hear a little bit about that. And I think what
11	shareholders happy, otherwise we're not going	11	I was hearing is this insinuation that, well,
12	to have access to capital marks, that's just a	12	we have to make the shareholders happy.
13	bogus argument. It's good in theory, but in	13	Otherwise, we're not going to be able to track
14	realty they don't use it. They don't need it.	14	that equity investment when we need it to
15	They have enough profit to cover it all.	15	finance our capital requirements. And as I
16	So this brings me to the next subject	16	showed you, I think that's a bogus argument,
17	matter. And the grievance that the rail labor	17	because they don't go to that source of
18	brings to you is that the railroads are not	18	external funding to finance their capital
19	sharing their wealth with stakeholders that	19	requirements. In fact, they're going in the
20	they claim are important to them, namely their	20	opposite direction.
21	employees. Rich mentioned this in his remarks,	21	Between 2007 and 2020, the big three
22	but in 1970 Milton Friedman became famous for	22	publicly traded railroad, this is the three out

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1	of the seven Class I railroad, spent what I	1	says.
2	estimate to be about 72 billion on stock	2	Now all told, the three Carriers alone
3	repurchase programs. 72 billion.	3	spent 30.9 billion over the past three years on
4	The shares outstanding for these three	4	stock buybacks. These are big numbers. \$30.9
5	railroads alone were reduced by 1 billions	5	billion. This is money they don't know what
6	shares since 2006. And you have that in part	6	else to do with all their cash. Let's buy some
7	on the chart that's on the screen. That's the	7	stock back. The total rail labor bill over
8	\$72.3 billion since 2007. These are cumulative	8	these three years accounted at \$27.7 billion.
9	numbers, not annual. Cumulative. And then the	9	Now I want to emphasize something. What
10	basic shares are those outstanding in each of	10	is a stock buyback? It makes stock more
11	the years from 2006 to 2020.	11	attractive. It invariably results in stock
12	During 2021, the big three publicly	12	appreciation, because what investors look at,
13	traded railroads alone spent \$13.6 billion on	13	earnings per share, how earnings per share
14	stock buybacks. And to put this in	14	grows, you can boost that number obviously if
15	perspective, they spent a total of \$9.2 billion	15	you're going to reduce the number of shares
16	in wages and benefits in the same year. So we	16	outstanding at high profit levels, right.
17	can't afford and we don't want to increase the	17	But that's the only purpose it has. A
18	\$9.2 billion labor bill, because we have to	18	stock buyback does nothing for the corporation.
19	give our shareholders \$13.6 billion back. We	19	Unlike investments in infrastructure,
20	say that's an imbalance of interest among the	20	investments in equipment, investment in
21	stakeholders in this enterprise. Give us some	21	technology, stock repurchase programs makes
22	of that \$13.6 billion. That's what rail labor	22	zero, zero contribution to the capital

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1	efficiency or profitability of the railroad.	1	gone unnoticed by investors.
2	It's just a giveaway. Because I have so much	2	The composite stock price for the big
3	cash, I don't know what to do with it all. And	3	three increased 1,250 percent between 2004 and
4	I've already met all my capital requirements.	4	December '21. That's not a typo. 1,250
5	The notion that I have to make my shareholder	5	percent. Composite annual dividends that have
6	happy with all of this extra cash, because I	6	been paid out by the big three increased from
7	need to remain able to attract equity investors	7	13 cents in 2004 to \$1.48 per share in 2021,
8	is a false argument, because they don't issue	8	and that's an increase of 1,038 percent over
9	stock. They don't go to the equity market to	9	that period of time.
10	raise capital. It's a bogus argument.	10	Now you know what happened to rail
11	Now what else have they done for the	11	labor? They've been telling you about that.
12	shareholder? Well, CSX, NS and UP, the	12	Well, you got 57 percent increase in your wage.
13	publicly-traded companies that I'm talking	13	Thanks. We just want some of what you're giving
14	about, and they trade as you know on the New	14	the shareholders.
15	York Stock Exchange and NASDAQ, the stock	15	The total return to the shareholders is
16	market establishes values for these companies	16	much greater because what I've done is I've
17	which reflect in major part all the financial	17	included the reinvestment of dividends that
18	performance measures that I have been talking	18	gives you what the total shareholder return is.
19	about. And the tremendous financial	19	And that has gone up over the same period 1,652
20	performance of these Class I railroads and	20	percent. That's the number that you see on the
21	their and moreover and more importantly,	21	chart, and that's just a composite for the big
22	their devotion to shareholder interest has not	22	three railroads. This isn't an index, but what

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1	you're seeing is the percentage increase.	1	and I raise it only
2	Because the index is at 1,800, and the number	2	board to the fact
3	on the far right is actually the percentage	3	thing that matter
4	increase from that period of time. It's not	4	shareholder inter
5	labeled properly.	5	looking at the co
6	Now how does this compare with those	6	executives. The
7	with which the railroads are competing as they	7	were paid \$183.7
8	would argue in the capital markets, in the	8	period from 2018
9	equity market? Well, for the rest of the S&P	9	information you l
10	500 over the same period of time, it went up	10	statement, public
11	the total shareholder value, again including	11	million per perso
12	the incorporation of dividends, went up 393	12	Now that's r
13	percent.	13	important point i
14	So you think if that top line ticked	14	total compensation
15	down a little bit, you think that would make a	15	dependent on pe
16	difference to the shareholder or to the	16	of total compens
17	railroad's ability to attract capital, which by	17	number was driv
18	that way they don't need because they have so	18	price. Stock pric
19	much profit? The answer is no. Give rail	19	think they're so i
20	labor some of that money.	20	shareholder happ
21	Now I have a little piece here at the	21	pockets. And I'n
22	bottom of Page 45 on executive compensation,	22	critically. I'm jus

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and I raise it only because I want to alert the
board to the fact that when I say that only
thing that matters to these companies is the
shareholder interest, I can prove that by
looking at the compensation structure of the
executives. The three CEOs of CSX, NS and UP
were paid \$183.7 million over the four-year
period from 2018 to 2021, okay. This is just
information you lift out of the proxy
statement, public information. That's \$15.3
million per person per year.
Now that's not the important point. The
important point is that 78 percent of their
total compensation was variable that is
dependent on performance goals. And 63 percent
of total compensation or 115.2 million of that
number was driven by the change in the stock
price. Stock price performance. So why do you
think they're so interested in making the
shareholder happy? So they can line their own
pockets. And I'm really not saying that
critically. I'm just giving evidence. It's
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1	not a personal thing. I mean, maybe all of us	1	don't think that's necessarily relevant. But I
2	would do the same thing. I'm just	2	do think it was interesting that between 2015
3	demonstrating that that's what's important to	3	and 2019, the CEOs increased their compensation
4	the company, the shareholder. It's	4	by 111 percent, and the rail worker's
5	demonstrated by the way they compensate their	5	compensation increased 13.8 percent over that
6	executives for success. The shareholder's	6	same contract period. And the Carriers are
7	happy, the executive's happy.	7	happy to complain about that or point that to
8	The balance by the way of that variable	8	your attention. Hey, look at these guys got a
9	compensation, the 15 percent that I'm not	9	13.8 percent raise; what are they complaining
10	mentioning was dependent upon the performance	10	about. Well, you know, we want some of what
11	of other financial and operational metrics. But	11	they've got. That's the answer.
12	principal among them, more than 30 percent in	12	So it's clear to us that I'm going to
13	terms of weight is the operating ratio. So the	13	add one footnote here. I'm going to elaborate
14	all-mighty OR, which means that when revenue is	14	on this in my rebuttal, but there's this notion
15	flat, let's cut labor out so that we can keep	15	that the variable compensation is appropriate
16	that OR up there, because then I'm also a	16	and the increase in compensation to executives
17	success. Not because I increased revenue, but	17	is appropriate because and the return to the
18	because I cut labor expenses.	18	shareholder is approach because they are taking
19	Now when I say the level of executive	19	the risk. You heard that yesterday. They're
20	compensation is not particularly relevant to	20	the ones who take the risk that the performance
21	your determination, I'm not complaining about	21	of the railroad may not be what we anticipate.
22	how much money they make. Others might, but I	22	And so and you're not willing to take the
		1	

Page 1012

	-	
1	risk, labor, so why should you be rewarded at	1
2	the same pace. Well, my answer to that, and I	2
3	will give you all the details on this in my	3
4	rebuttal is that it's rail labor that is at	4
5	risk for adverse performance of the company.	5
6	Because the business model is that any time	6
7	there's some adverse event, and I don't care	7
8	whether it's a COVID crisis. I don't care if	8
9	it's the Great Recession. I don't care if it's	9
10	the coal problem that was described. In each	10
11	of those events what happened is that let's	11
12	just cut labor. We'll park trains. We'll lay	12
13	off conductors. We'll lay off engineers. We'll	13
14	lay off engineers. We'll lay off maintenance	14
15	people. We'll cut our labor costs. Guess what?	15
16	I will show you how during the Great Recession	16
17	and during these other crisis, it was rail	17
18	labor who took the beating. It was rail labor	18
19	who took the risk of adverse performance of the	19
20	company, because their jobs were lost, their	20
21	income was lost, and profits went up. The	21
22	operating ratio fell. And the stock went	22

and the share prices went up, because that's the business plan. So I reject the notion that it is the equity holder's or the executives with their variable compensation, they're taking a risk on

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performance. I was laughing at one of the charts was shown yesterday where the management took -- at risk. Had to take a 25 percent cut in their \$500,000 a year salary. And rail labor during that recession got a 14 percent increase. Well, that was for the survivors. What they didn't include on the chart were the thousands of railroad workers who got a hundred percent cut in their pay because jobs were abolished. So don't get me started. We'll show you that in our rebuttal. It's our view that rail labor has been denied its fair share of the corporations wealth and of the success of the industry. The executives have touted how their most important

asset is their work force as their employees who worked tirelessly during the COVID crisis.

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		1	
1	Well, you know, where's the love? Where's the	1	were. Remember I was showing you earlier that
2	money? That's what we're saying. Rail labor	2	we're actually up 8.5 percent. But if you
3	has not received its fair share of the	3	extend that to 2021, we lost that so far. We're
4	industry's increasing wealth. As we develop	4	at the break even point.
5	more thoroughly elsewhere in the statement,	5	But even shippers and I understand
6	real wages have crept up since 1988 disaster,	6	their grievances before the Surface
7	the imposed contract, but all that was	7	Transportation Board. Even they have done
8	necessary to break even. And total	8	better because since deregulations, rail prices
9	compensation not withstanding a strong health	9	and constant dollars have been flat. Actually,
10	and welfare program has not kept pace with the	10	over the entire period down 42 percent. Not so
11	rest of U.S. workers. And the cost of	11	much since 2004, and that's shown on the chart
12	consolidation and capacity rationalization has	12	that you have in the front of you there.
13	been shouldered by rail labor where more than	13	Another look at this imbalance is shown
14	three quarters of rail jobs have been abolished	14	in the chart on Page 47, at the bottom of Page
15	since 1979.	15	47. It's profits and productivity climb. The
16	So I want to look at a couple of	16	profit per employee skyrockets. In '79, the
17	indicators of this sharing the wealth. It	17	year before deregulations, profit per employee
18	begins on the bottom of Page 486 of my	18	was \$1,925 dollars. By 2004, it was \$18,182.
19	statement. In constant dollars, Class I	19	And by 2021, profit per employee was \$196,169.
20	railroad profits have risen 705 percent while	20	It seems to us that the survivors of this mass
21	real wages, again wages in constant dollars, as	21	job abolishment deserve to have a piece of that
22	of today are exactly at the same level as they	22	profit.
		1	

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	1490 1010		
1	Now some of this imbalance as I've noted	1	billion. So ye
2	is in the inset on Page 48 of my statement. And	2	okay, and w
3	just to kind of review a couple of numbers	3	Howev
4	we've been looking at. This is 2004 to 2021	4	1,250 perce
5	covering the last three Collective Bargaining	5	share 1,380
6	Agreements. Change in employment is down 27	6	went up 1,6
7	percent. We've lost 43,183 jobs. And they	7	billion dollar
8	haven't come back by the way.	8	billion dollar
9	The wage rate increase was 56 percent.	9	labor costs a
10	We heard a lot about that. That's a 5.9	10	giveaway to
11	percent real wage adjustment over that period.	11	Let's ta
12	Total compensation increased by 59 percent, a	12	finances and
13	little bit over. That's driven of course by	13	began tha
14	healthcare cost increases. And that resulted	14	of Page 48.
15	in a real change of 7.9 percent over the entire	15	we have der
16	period.	16	refutable or
17	Total labor costs, however, only went up	17	has not only
18	14.4 percent. They actually fell because you	18	generations
19	cut out so many jobs. So labor cost and	19	levels. For
20	constant dollars are down 16.3 percent.	20	income incre
21	So the incremental increase in labor	21	what I'm wh
22	costs over this entire 15-year period is 1.8	22	happened si

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billion. So you added \$1.8 billion to payroll,
okay, and we say thank you for that.
However, the stock price increased
1,250 percent. Change in cash dividends per
share 1,380 percent. Total shareholders return
went up 1,651 percent and they spent eighty-one
billion dollars on shareholder buybacks. 1.8
billion dollars on the incremental increase in
labor costs against eighty-one billion dollars
giveaway to shareholders.
Let's take a look at some of the current
finances and some the industry outlook which
began that discussion begins on the bottom
of Page 48. So, from a financial standpoint as
we have demonstrated, and I don't think this is
refutable or denied, the industry performance
has not only recovered, but from earlier
generations, but has improved over pre-pandemic
levels. For the Big Four carriers, operating
income increased in 10.2 percent over '19. So
what I'm what I'm talking about here is, what's
happened since, and, you know, since this

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1	contract has been amendable, because we went
2	through this rough slowdown during 2020 COVID-
3	19 pandemic, right, traffic was down. And the
4	question I'm asked answering is, how have
5	the carrier's recovered, or have they recovered
6	and to what extent?
7	So, first metric here is what happened
8	to operating income? Well, operating income
9	increased 10.2 percent in '21, this is over the
10	pre pandemic level in 2019. So they not only
11	recovered from the slowdown in 2020, they're
12	now exceeding the pre-pandemic levels. The
13	operating ratio has fallen from .63 to .59. So
14	again, better than the pre pandemic level. And
15	by the way, .59 is the best in nearly eighty
16	years. So they're back from the pandemic
17	problem. Profits and 2021 are up 10.6 percent.
18	Over 2019. And the profit margin improved to
19	28.1 percent from 25.5 percent dividends per
20	share increased fifteen percent. The composite
21	share price for the three publicly traded among
22	the Big Four went up forty-six percent By

Page 1019 December '21, over December '29. So -- and as I noted above, in the meantime, during this pandemic crisis, they were able to spend 13.6

billion dollars in 2021 alone in stock buybacks. Totally recovered. Now, there was talk about the service recovery plans by other witnesses and I don't have time to like dwell on that, I only have a few minutes left. But you know about the hearings that were held by the STB on April 26 and 27, and STB ordered some additional service recovery plan and information. And there was a -- I just want to bring your attention to an article that was published in Railway Age by the Federal AAR. And one of their contributing analysts, Jim Blaze, did a story about what the service plans -- the the service recovery plans set. And in my bullet points on Page 49, I'm just summarizing some of the points that he raised in his article that seem to -- that kind of take aways from the service recovery plans. And, you know, they all agreed that we have

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1	service problems and so on. And you can read
2	them. You already heard about this about
3	bonuses that are being paid in the rest, I
4	won't dwell on it.
5	So notwithstanding the carrier's
6	promises STB, as of today, their recruitment
7	problems persist? You heard a lot about that.
8	And I'm not going to add to the record in that
9	regard. But I did report to you on Page 50,
10	that there was kind of an independent analysis
11	by Loop Capital markets, an investment
12	consulting firm, and this is pretty current as
13	of July 2022. And it was about the Big Four
14	Railroads crew deficit, and they said they're
15	still short 4,063 T&E employees across the Big
16	Four carriers. That's over a nine percent
17	vacancy rate. So this is just more evidence
18	that supports what you've been hearing from
19	other union witnesses about the problems that
20	persist out there in terms of recruiting, our
21	recruiting train engine employees, and in other
22	crafts as well.

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1	Okay, let's turn to the bottom of Page
2	51. This is the industry analysts view of the
3	world and independent analysts from all
4	quarters are bullish on railroad industry
5	prospect. We heard a lot about the risks out
6	there and oh my god, we you know, we made
7	we're making tons of money, but that may not be
8	true in the future. Well, Wall Street doesn't
9	share that view. There's about twenty-seven to
10	thirty analysts depending on the report date,
11	that regularly follow the railroad industry.
12	And they projected earnings per share for the
13	Big Three publicly traded companies as shown on
14	Page 52. And all of them project increases in
15	their earnings per share in 2022, and 2023, and
16	for Argus, which is another research company,
17	another source of information of its kind, of
18	that independent investment research group
19	placed a buy rating on all three railroads,
20	which means they're very bullish on their
21	prospects, and also reported that projected
22	increases in earnings per share.

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		1	
1	Now in May 2022, Morningstar, which is	1	percent in 2021 to 30.1 percent by 2024.
2	another leading equity research source,	2	Okay. So whatever anybody's guess is
3	published their rail analyst report, and they	3	as good as the next as to what the future will
4	included projections for the next three years,	4	bring. But I'm reporting to you what the wall
5	they actually go beyond what the consensus	5	street analysts are saying. And you can add
6	group does. And that's put up on the screen	6	that to your your intelligence as you move
7	for you there. And as indicated in the table,	7	forward with this case.
8	operating income for the Big Three Railroads is	8	Now, we want to deal with the last
9	projected to grow over the next three years	9	subject matter here. And that's the cost
10	through 2024, at the end of this contract,	10	impact of the organization's proposal. Let me
11	collectively by twenty-two percent. The	11	say at the outset, Mr. Chairman, that this is a
12	composite operating ratio for the Big Three is	12	my costing model, this is the report page of
13	estimated to be .562 by 2024. That's down from	13	the costing model. And it at this point in
14	the actual record setting year of .58 in 2021.	14	time, was populated only with our wage issues,
15	Remember, the data here that you see on the	15	and the three holidays. And as a placeholder,
16	table, in 2021, is is actual, and 2022 is	16	I put fifteen days of sick leave in there. And
17	values Morningstar's estimates.	17	then there was a what I call a plug. This
18	Profits are expected to follow	18	means that it's not a valuation that I perform,
19	increasing from 13.3 billion in 2021 to 16.2	19	it's a valuation that the actuaries perform,
20	billion in 2024 for these Big Three Railroads	20	and it was simply loaded into my model from the
21	alone, and the profit margins for the group	21	actuaries costing of those elements of our
22	improve twenty from improved to 28.8	22	proposal. And at the time, they were 12.3.

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1	billion dollars in each of the last two years.	1	ide
2	Now, some of this has been revised, and	2	us
3	moreover, I have added the craft-specific costs	3	we
4	of the coalition's proposal. I also made	4	the
5	adjustments based upon additional research in	5	be
6	the number of sick leave days in sick leave	6	the
7	days utilization. Those changes, and the	7	pre
8	results are will be part of my report on	8	eit
9	Thursday. And, again, you will have both my	9	
10	calculations of what the carrier's proposals	10	be
11	cost, or save, and what the organization's	11	the
12	proposals cost and save, and I'm hoping to have	12	po
13	those, you know, as comprehensive as the data	13	wit
14	sources permit.	14	tea
15	Having said that, the Jeff Rogers	15	are
16	reported to you this morning that we had some	16	juc
17	meetings about on costing in an effort to kind	17	ba
18	of reconcile our differences over the values	18	tea
19	that our prospective models were producing.	19	dif
20	And we and as Jeff said, you know, I thought	20	a p
21	those meetings were productive. They were	21	sh
22	productive in as much as we were able to	22	

Page 1025

1	identify the sources of the differences between
2	us. They were unsuccessful in the sense that
3	we were not able to agree on whose approach was
4	the best. So you're gonna see differences
5	between us because I was not persuaded that
6	they were correct in their approach. And I
7	presume I didn't persuade them that I was
8	either.
9	So however, having had said that, if it
0	becomes, if and when it becomes important to
1	the board to have a refinement of these costing
2	positions, I would be more than willing to meet
3	with you or to meet offline with Jeff and his
4	team to try to figure out what our differences
5	are, so that you may make a better-informed
6	judgment. In the meantime, I think I know,
7	based upon my meetings with, with Jeff and his
8	team, what those differences were those
9	differences might lie. And I'll just give you
0	a preview of what I think they are with the
1	short amount of time I have.
2	All right, I have twenty minutes. Okay.

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Page 1026	Page 1027
1 I record some of them down on the bottom	1 - will grow the labor cost base, with some
2 of Page 54. From what I've seen, in this	2 assumption for health care costs increases.
³ record thus far, one of the principal	³ But I don't attribute that growth and the cost
4 differences that we have between us is that	4 of that inflationary pressure on decisions that
5 what I show are the incremental changes to	5 are made here. That's that's our difference
6 labor costs associated with changes that are	6 number one.
7 made under this collective bargaining	7 The second difference is, I'm excluding
8 agreement. That is to say, and this would be	8 those railroads not participating in wages and
9 my routine approach, if there is an improvement	9 rules in this case, that would be the Soo Line.
10 in wages, it's that incremental costs that's	10 And all of the engineers and conductors that
11 reflected in the model. If there's a change in	11 are employed by the CSX, they have to be
12 health and welfare, it's the increase in those	12 excluded from both the base and to the
13 costs associated with the changes that are made	13 incremental cost increases associated with
14 at the collective bargaining table. The	14 changes are made. The Carriers may have done
15 carriers didn't do that. They're showing you	15 the same thing. I don't know. But I'm just
16 in their number. The growth in the cost of	16 identifying potential differences between us.
17 health care associated with health care	17 CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Is the latter likely
18 inflation, that has nothing to do with the	18 to be material if you're excluding out of both
19 changes that are contemplated at the bargaining	19 the
20 table.	20 MR. ROTH: I'm sorry, I'm sorry I
21 So, number one, I disagree with that	21 can't hear you.
22 approach. I think you have my model might -	22 CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: let me pull my mic
Page 1028	Page 1029
Page 1028 1 closer, sorry.	Page 1029 1 CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Fair enough.
1 closer, sorry.	1 CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Fair enough.
 closer, sorry. Is the latter difference in approach 	1 CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Fair enough. 2 MR. ROTH: Right. So yeah, the growth
 closer, sorry. Is the latter difference in approach likely to be calculational in material if 	1 CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Fair enough. 2 MR. ROTH: Right. So yeah, the growth 3 percentage increase should be constant
 closer, sorry. Is the latter difference in approach likely to be calculational in material if you're excluding those employee groups from the 	1 CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Fair enough. 2 MR. ROTH: Right. So yeah, the growth 3 percentage increase should be constant 4 should be comparable with the dollars that you
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1closer, sorry.2Is the latter difference in approach3likely to be calculational in material if4you're excluding those employee groups from the5base And also from the cost?6MR. ROTH: Yeah, they would be excluded7from the status quo line,8CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: I spent.9MR. ROTH: well as from the the10it's the base case, in the new case, that would11be excluded from both.12CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: So it shouldn't13change in any material way, any of the14percentage adjustments?15MR. ROTH: But if you include them,16you're going to have bigger numbers17CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Yes, I understand.18MR. ROTH: But if you calculate the19delta, you'll have a bigger cost.	1 CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Fair enough. 2 MR. ROTH: Right. So yeah, the growth 3 percentage increase should be constant 4 should be comparable with the dollars that you 5 see floating around here would be higher, if 6 you don't exclude them. 7 BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: I have a 8 question on the status quo line. I understand 9 that you're leaving the wages unchanged, and 10 the differences are in projected increase in 11 health care costs if nothing changed in the 12 contract? 13 MR. ROTH: Correct. 14 BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: Why does it go 15 down in 2021? 16 MR. ROTH: Okay, that's the second 17 bullet point. 18 BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: What? 19 MR. ROTH: That's the second bullet

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1	differences that were uncovered when I had my	1	they're going to exaggerate the cost of the
2	conversations with with Jeff's staff, with he	2	agreement, unless they're going to track down
3	and his staff, was that they were using 2019,	3	everybody who was terminated and give them the
4	which is the year prior to the amendable date,	4	money and give them the health and welfare in
5	as their base. And then they would hold it	5	retro.
6	static, assuming payroll had counts, and	6	To answer your question, Member
7	everything would stay the same. I didn't do	7	Deinhardt, is that it goes down, because the
8	that, because we are thirty months into this	8	head counts went down, and the number of people
9	contract. And I know from STB data that we had	9	covered by health care went down. That's just
10	a collapse in both payroll, and in headcounts	10	the reality of what happened in 2020.
11	in 2020. I made an adjustment to the 2019 base	11	BOARD MEMBER DEINHARDT: Okay
12	to lower the base, or the both the payroll and	12	MR. ROTH: Okay, so, so I made that
13	the head counts in 2020 to reflect that	13	adjustment. And then I adjusted again in '21
14	diminution. That was a real thing. We're in	14	because, guess what, it was done again, in '21.
15	'21. We know that the payroll was lower in	15	And this is not an assumption, this is STB
16	2020.	16	data. Okay. So I know what it down, but, you
17	I think the approach that the carriers	17	know so it okay. That said. So in 2023
18	take, and again, you know, I'm not being	18	and 2024, I held it flat. Because I don't know
19	critical, because I don't know unless I	19	what's going to happen.
20	these are questions you need to ask carriers.	20	
21	If they were if they held their their	21	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: It's in '22 as well in your
22	payroll constant and their headcounts constant,	22	bullet?

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1	MR. ROTH: Correct. Correct.	1
2	Okay, the third. Okay. Yeah, I mean,	2
3	another this is not a difference between us.	3
4	But this is an assumption that I made. And I	4
5	think the carrier's made as well as every	5
6	person on the property is going to use fifteen	6
7	days of sick leave. That's an assumption that	7
8	I initially made that I'm not willing to live	8
9	with, because I don't think it's possibly true.	9
10	So in the next iteration of my costing, you'll	10
11	see that I'm going to roll that back having	11
12	acquired additional information on sick leave	12
13	usage.	13
14	Now, I used for the non-operating crafts	14
15	for holidays, for example, I assume that they	15
16	that that they they were not actually observed,	16
17	because the holidays that are being proposed	17
18	are on days, which are not observed.	18
19	Generally. Well, I shouldn't say that they're	19
20	observed. Federal government, there are	20
21	national holidays. But the railroads, I should	21
22	say that the app the railroads will operate	22

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normal, scheduled workdays on those days. So I
assume that nobody has ever observed it. But
they would get paid time and a half for
working, which would be the current rule.
Another but I think that's consistent with
how the carrier's made their calculations.
For what the last bullet point is
another source of differences between us
because what I know is that the 2019 base
payroll that we start with, has a lot of
elements in it that are not variable with
general wage increases. There's fixed
arbitraries, there's fixed skilled premiums,
there's other collateral payments, particularly
the operating craps that are not variable with
wage increases. So there's got to be an
adjustment downward to account for that.
So I have a I developed a method for
doing that. And I mean, I won't take the time
to explain that to you now. But my calculation
is that about eighty-eight percent of earnings
are variable with general wage increases, and

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1	I've made that adjustment accordingly. So I	1	understand the kind of the basis of the
2	think, Mr. Chairman, that I think those that	2	calculation.
3	identifies maybe some of the principal	3	MR. ROTH: That's that's how it
4	differences between us in this modeling	4	right.
5	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: One calculational	5	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Got it.
6	question just because we're there. On your	6	There's two things wrong, I think, with
7	chart, it looks like the sick leave number is	7	the assumption that people are gonna use
8	five times exactly what the costing of the	8	fifteen days, and it's going to cost the
9	holidays are, because fifteen is three five	9	carrier time and a half to cover that work.
10	times three, right?	10	The first is that utilization cannot possibly
11	MR. ROTH: That should be linear.	11	be that high. And secondly, because remember,
12	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Except that the	12	you have offsetting other benefits to begin
13	holidays you're assuming cost time and a half	13	with. Okay, but I'm gonna get to that in my
14	because that's what they're going to work them	14	explanation and rebuttal.
15	in to be paid at a premium, the same assumption	15	The second reason why it's it's
16	doesn't apply to the sick leave.	16	incorrect is that you're not covering all of
17	MR. ROTH: That's a good that's a	17	those absences. There are a lot of crews that
18	good point. I'm assuming that when somebody	18	will work with one person short, and you're not
19	takes sick leave, it's actually that loss	19	necessarily backfilling that, maybe because you
20	productive time is actually backfilled on	20	don't have an available body, or maybe because
21	overtime. But that may not be the case.	21	you can just cover the work with the crew
22	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: I just needed to	22	that's left. It's the same thing with
	Page 1036		Page 1037
1	vacations, you know, vacation costs are always	1	the cost of the union's proposals to then see

		1	
1	vacations, you know, vacation costs are always	1	the cost of the
2	exaggerated because they don't backfill, all	2	what happens
3	that vacation time lost.	3	thing you shou
4	So okay, that said you, I think I've	4	this is a very c
5	tried to identify some of the differences	5	think this is ov
6	between us. And, again, I don't want to jump	6	on the financia
7	the gun and criticize the Carrier's	7	its projections
8	calculations until I'm unless I have some	8	can see it.
9	conversation with, you know, with their team	9	What port
10	about how they prepare their materials.	10	increase in lab
11	Okay, the last thing we're talking	11	increase is ass
12	about, because I only have ten minutes left, is	12	opposed to inc
13	the impact on the carrier's financial position.	13	I don't know.
14	Now, we've already established that at	14	So I'm as
15	this writing, they're in a stronger position	15	is attributable
16	than ever been before, in 2021, and then had	16	on top of those
17	fully recovered from the pandemic, and they're	17	adopting the u
18	above the pre-pandemic levels already	18	after I do that
19	established that. So what I did with the	19	56. And you c
20	Morningstar forecasts, and this is on Page 56	20	there would be
21	of my presentation, is I have reconstructed, if	21	finances, but t
22	you will, the Morningstar estimates embedding	22	revenue will co

7

the cost of the union's proposals to then see
what happens to the forecasts. Now, the first
thing you should understand is that I am
this is a very conservative approach and I
think this is overstating the negative impact
on the financials because Morningstar has in
its projections some increase in costs. You
can see it.
What portion of that is an assumed
increase in labor costs? I don't know. What
increase is associated with adding headcount as
opposed to increase the wages or compensation?

ssuming none of that increases to labor and I'm just layering se expenses, the full burden of union's proposals. The results are shown in the table on Page can see, and predictably so, that e some degradation of the they are not material. Projected cover the increase in operating

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1	expenses and operating income will increase	1	proposal and value it at the maximum amount.
2	nevertheless, so operating income, even with	2	I want to go back to my costing for this
3	the union's full proposal embedded in those	3	in this last minute or two. And say the
4	costs will go up because revenue is predicted	4	following, when I redid this, and I loaded it
5	to outpace that incremental cost increase. The	5	or populated the model with the balance of the
6	operating ratio would go up to .602, but it	6	Union's proposals, which affect the crafts
7	would still be the best since 1942. So, it's	7	specific requests, and I adjusted the number of
8	not like we're turning back the clock here.	8	sick days taken from fifteen to seven, I come
9	Okay. They don't get the improvement that's	9	up with a number, a total average cost of the
10	predicted, but they would be at the best at	10	contract that's marginally below this 10.6
11	a level as high as they were since 1942.	11	number. That's how big a weight sick leave has
12	Under the Morningstar scenario, profits	12	in the valuation. It's a big, big number. But
13	would increase over the next three years to	13	when you we have to talk in our next
14	14.5 billion in '24 for these three carriers,	14	appearance that about the sick leave
15	even with our proposal. The profit margin	15	assumption and how it should change. And then
16	would stand at 26.9 percent, slightly below the	16	when I give you the new evaluation, and you see
17	historic levels in 1920 and '21. But still	17	that the 10.6 and increases across the line
18	better than the Class I average for any year in	18	there are actually lower, you can then assume
19	over a century. Earnings Per Share would still	19	that the reconstructed Morningstar scenario
20	increase by 22 percent, and that's only pennies	20	that I have outlined on Page 56 is still a
21	off the original estimate by Morningstar. So	21	valid look. Because my costs are going to
22	this is if you were to adopt the full	22	actually be lower.

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1 So I'm standing by what I report on 56 2 as the impact on the carrier's projected 3 financials according to Morningstar, even when 4 I include all of the Union's proposals. 5 (Thereupon, a discussion was had off the 6 record.) 7 MR. ROTH: I'm gonna have mercy on the 8 group and conclude. 9 I have on the on Pages 58, in the 10 balance of my statement, some summaries which 11 will be simply a repetition of what I already 12 talked about. So let you read that at your 13 leisure. And I'll close for the day, I will be 14 back with a rebuttal submission, because I have 15 great more to say about the carrier's 16 presentation. 17 CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: Thank you very much. 18 Let me hit just two very brief areas, maybe so 19 that you can preview for us in the rebuttal 20 case, whether you were planning to or not. 21 One dealt with recent collective 22 bargaining settlements, that covered the years

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1	
1	that are in dispute. I think you were here
2	when we asked Mr. Glass to provide us with some
3	backup information, both from public and his
4	private sources. With respect to other
5	settlements, I'm not asking you to concede
6	relevance or not. But if you have any
7	information that addresses that same area, we
8	would be interested in at least receiving it
9	for what it may be worth
10	MR. ROTH: Will do, Mr. Chairman.
11	I would make this observation at this
12	point, there is always a lag between the
13	results of collective bargaining wages
14	decisions and the CPI because
15	CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: I understand.
16	MR. ROTH: people are people are
17	under contract, and they have to wait to the
18	next round of bargaining before they can
19	recover what they lost, given unpredictable
20	spikes in inflation. And remember, we had
21	we continue this, this period of historically
22	low inflation up to 2020, when the CPI only

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Page 1042 1 went up by 1.4 percent. So anything, any 2 settlement reached in 2021 or earlier is not 3 going to have a frame of reference of the kind 4 that we have in the making of this collective 5 bargaining agreement. So 6 CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: I would agree with 7 that for a moment. I wasn't trying to get to 8 what we're going to do with it. If anything, 9 just simply ask for the information. Unless if 10 you've got anything --11 MR. ROTH: I may be able to produce 12 something of the -- in the transit industry 13 because I track settlements on about the major 14 fifty properties on a monthly basis, and I 15 might have some intelligence to offer there. 16 But apart from there, it would be public 17 sources. 18 CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: That's fine. 19 The only other thing I wanted to 20 question is something that I think is an 21 assumption on my part, and I don't like to 22 assume without asking. We did not have any

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And thank you, Mr. Roth. Off the record, please. (Thereupon, at 6:19 p.m., the proceedings were adjourned, to be reconvened at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 27, 2022.)

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BNSF information in terms of the analysis of, not just stock buybacks, but profits and the like over the period. Is that a function of publicly traded or not in terms of or something else?

MR. ROTH: Correct. Anytime I talk about the Big Three, it's publicly traded because they're the ones buying back the stock. They're the ones that have stock appreciation. I talked about the Big Four, BN would be included because they're filing -- they find 10Ks and -- and quarterly filings with the SEC that -- so they're included in the kind of financials before and after COVID, and that kind of material, but they would be excluded from any kind of a stock appreciation analysis.

CHAIRPERSON JAFFE: I simply wanted to confirm the assumption.

I've abused everybody enough this afternoon, by way of the time. Thank you very much. We'll stand in adjournment until 8 a.m. tomorrow.

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CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY

I, OKEEMAH HENDERSON, the officer before whom the foregoing arbitration was taken, do hereby certify that the proceedings which appear in the foregoing arbitration was duly taken by me in shorthand and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me; that said arbitration is a true record of the proceedings; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this arbitration was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

Dated this day of. , 2022.

OKEEMAH HENDERSON Notary Public in and for the District of Columbia

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