



BROTHERHOOD OF MAINTENANCE OF WAY EMPLOYEES DIVISION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

Tony D. Cardwell
President

Dale E. Bogart, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer

December 1, 2022

Dear United States Senators:

I am writing to urge you not to vote to extend the status quo period beyond December 9, 2022 for unions and railroads that have not reached settlements regarding their proposed changes to agreements. Voting to extend the status quo period would be a very serious mistake for numerous reasons.

The relationship between the Railroad Workers and the railroads is very strained, and in a very precarious state. Railroad Workers harbor significant animosity towards their employers right now. This is because of the intentionally inhumane and utterly disrespectful working conditions created solely by their railroad employers focused on extracting more profits from their customers and demanding more work from the Workers that remain in the industry. ***Railroad Workers are at their breaking point.*** An extension of the status quo will also deny Railroad Workers a much needed and well-deserved increase to their pay during a period where they have felt the woes of inflation. It has been three years since Railroad Workers have received a raise. They should not have to wait two more months.

Extension of the status quo period would also be based on a faulty premise - that with additional time for negotiations, the parties might come to an agreement. The unions and the railroads negotiated for almost three years and no progress was made. BMWED and BRS negotiated with the railroads for weeks after the failed ratifications and both unions voluntarily extended their status quo periods, during which time they sought to negotiate for paid sick leave with the railroads. The unions made two new proposals for paid sick leave, reducing their proposals each time clearly showing their willingness to compromise. But the railroads refused to consider our paid sick leave proposals for Railroad Workers. The parties last met on November 22nd, for maybe 20 minutes, and mostly discussed when the status quo period would expire. The meeting prior to that one lasted a similar amount of time. Extending the status quo period further would serve no purpose other than delay. Additionally, it is the railroads who are preparing to shut down operations well in advance of the end of the status quo period. Voting to extend the status quo period only extends the disputes and acrimony between the parties for two more months and it serves no purpose.

It is time for this dispute to end. If it is not brought to a close by the lawful exercise of self-help as envisioned by the Railway Labor Act, but by legislation, then that should be done now. The Senate is in a position to do just that. The House passed a bill that would effectively end this round of national negotiations and any possibility of interruptions in services to the rail supply chain. The House also passed a bill that would provide paid sick leave for all Railroad Workers. Both of these bills are now before the Senate for a vote. It would be a superfluous and unnecessary act by the Senators to now take up a vote to extend the status quo period. *In other words, the prime*

41475 Gardenbrook Road
Novi, MI 48375-1328
Telephone 248.662.2660 Facsimile 248.662.2659

www.bmwe.org



All U.S. Senators
December 1, 2022
Page 2

opportunity, and the best vehicles to end this potential national crisis are before the Senate right now. All you have to do now is vote.

You have been entrusted to engage in the governance of our great country, and to discharge your civic duties well and faithfully as a U.S. Senator. The railroad industry is in a perilous state and requires immediate attention. Railroad Workers need and deserve paid sick days, and the railroads and their Wall St. backed hedge funds can afford one penny of every dollar of their record profits to provide these paid sick days. It is time for the Senate to do the right thing. Vote to pass the two bills that are before you today. Do not delay any longer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony D. Cardwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "C".

Tony D. Cardwell

BMWED National Division President