

# ***BMW NEWS RELEASE***

**Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Poll indicates BMW membership support for BMW/Teamster merger**

**Southfield, MI** - A scientific poll of BMW members conducted in the United States and Canada indicates considerable support among BMW members for a possible merger between the BMW and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT). The poll was conducted on behalf of the BMW by a professional third-party polling firm.

Separate telephone polls were conducted in Canada and the United States, with 400 Canadian members polled September 20-29, and 500 U.S. members polled October 3-10, 2003. The Canadian and U.S. polls have a margin of error of 4.9% (+/-) and 4.4% (+/-), respectively.

When asked how they would vote if a merger ballot was conducted today, 59% of U.S. members indicated they would approve a BMW/IBT merger, 14% would reject, and 26% were undecided. In Canada, 35% of Canadian members polled indicated they would approve a BMW/IBT merger, 25% would reject, and 36% were undecided. In the U.S., 60% of respondents were aware of the potential pending merger between the IBT and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE), while only 26% of Canadian BMW members were aware of the pending IBT/BLE merger.

In both polls, the membership agreed (87% U.S. and 77% Canada) that "Rail Labor and the traditional Railroad Brotherhoods will continue to decline in power if we do not get together and pool our resources in another, larger transportation union." And both the U.S. and Canadian membership, by a margin of 89% and 73% respectively, agreed that a merger with the Teamsters would give the BMW added strength at the bargaining table, in the political arena, and in organizing. U.S. and Canadian members also agreed by a margin of 86% and 73% respectively, that by BMW joining in a merger with the Teamsters and BLE, transportation employers would find it more difficult to pursue their divide-and-conquer strategy to weaken transportation labor unions.

The poll results also indicate that BMW members in the U.S. and Canada (72% and 52% respectively) recognize the need for a strategic merger, and also overwhelmingly agree (92% and 81% respectively) that a merger with the Teamsters, which is the largest transportation union in North America, would give all transportation workers more clout at all points in the process of transporting goods, people and services.

BMW represents approximately 40,000 workers in the U.S. and Canada who build, maintain, inspect, and repair the tracks, bridges, and related railroad infrastructure throughout North America.

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