

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

Whereas, in 2001, the ratification materials sent to our members by all of the affected General Chairman stated: “Our tentative agreement is similar to what we believe a Bush PEB would recommend on wages and cost sharing of health benefits, but our work rules are preserved. We recommend that you accept it rather than put the work rules at risk.” On the strength of that advice, our members ratified the agreement; and

Whereas, BMWED resolved not to repeat the outcome of 2001 which produced an agreement with wages less than the rate of inflation and monthly employee cost sharing payments that went from \$0 in 2000 to over \$150 per month today. Our organization joined in with six other unions to form the Rail Labor Bargaining Coalition (“RLBC”). For the first time in decades, a major part of Rail Labor stood together in solidarity to fight the carriers instead of surrendering, one at a time; and

Whereas, the carriers liked the 2001 outcome so much that they tried, once more, to force “work exit” on the BMWED, destroy any limitation on contracting out, wreck our travel and away-from-home expenses, radically expand healthcare cost sharing, and give a pittance in wage increases to the few of us who would still have jobs; and

Whereas, standing together, the RLBC, with a major assist from the Teamsters' National Legislative Department, thwarted the carriers' plan to push us into a Bush Presidential Emergency Board in the Spring of 2006; and

Whereas, solidarity leads to success. BMWED, as part of the RLBC reached a tentative agreement that gives up no work rules, raises net wages by over 16%, caps employee healthcare cost sharing payments that had increased by almost 50% in the past two years, expands access to in-network medical benefits, especially for the 25% of rail employees previously denied them, and protects our work rules. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division National Association recognizes that the 2007 tentative agreement yields real and tangible benefits for our members; and be it further

Resolved, that the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division National Association believes the Tentative Agreement, as written providing that “MMCP will be offered to all employees in any geographical area where a current vendor has a network, provides maximum health insurance choice and value to our members; and be it further

Resolved, that the majority of the National Association, gathered on March 20, 2007 in Cleveland, OH, pledge to recommend to our members that they return their ratification ballots, and that they vote ‘yes’ to ratify the tentative agreement.

(The National Association is composed of all General Chairmen, Vice Chairmen, Assistant Chairmen and Secretary-Treasurers of System Divisions or Federations, or others of comparable title, and all National Division Officers and Appointees pursuant to Article XIX, Sec.14 of the BMWED bylaws)