

Freddie N. Simpson
Acting President



Perry K. Geller, Sr.
Acting Secretary-Treasurer

Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees

Affiliated with the AFL-CIO and C.L.C.

Affil.
IBT

September 16, 2003

All Grand Lodge and System Officers
in the United States and Canada

Dear Sirs and Brothers,

I wish to inform you that by unanimous vote of the Grand Lodge Officers on Monday, September 8, 2003, BMW will be entering into merger negotiations with International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The United Steelworkers of America and International Union of Operating Engineers were also visited and considered by the Grand Lodge Officers before deciding to move forward with Teamsters.

The first order of business will be to jointly prepare a survey to be provided BMW members for the purpose of determining how they feel about merging with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and to give the Teamsters a reasonable idea of the possibility for a favorable referendum. It is understood that no one can be assured of the possibility of a merger until an agreement is negotiated and forwarded to the members for their determination. In other words, the devil is in the detail. While the survey is being prepared we will simultaneously begin to lay the ground work for commencing negotiations in the event a favorable survey is completed.

I look forward to harmonious and productive discussions regarding this matter, and will update you periodically as negotiations progress.

Fraternally yours,

Freddie N. Simpson
Acting President

cc: Mr. Perry K. Geller, Sr.
Grand Lodge Appointees
Mr. James P. Hoffa, General President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters

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