



A MESSAGE FROM

# Teamsters Rail Conference

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For Immediate Release  
August 7, 2006

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## **APPALACHIAN AND OHIO RAIL WORKERS APPROVE FIRST CONTRACT AS BMWED TEAMSTERS**

### ***Strong First Contract For Short Line Railroad Provides Higher Wages, Other Improvements***

(Washington, D.C.)—Track maintenance employees of the Appalachian and Ohio Railroad have unanimously approved their first contract as members of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division (BMWED) of the Teamsters Union. This is the first union contract on the short line railroad since being sold by Watco Companies.

“This contract will provide an immediate increase in wages,” said Randall Brassell, General Chairman of the BMWED’s Allied Eastern Federation. “The contract language standardizes pay rates and gives employees access to a 401(k) plan. This is a good first contract.”

The contract ratification vote took place August 3, 2006, in Buckhannon, West Virginia.

“I am looking forward to better pay and a set schedule of holidays,” said Dustin Huffman, a trackman who has worked for A&O Railroad for the past 10 months.

A&O Railroad has about 150 miles of track in West Virginia and carries freight cargo from coal mines, warehouses and plastic plants. Originally part of CSX Corp., it sold the short line to Watco Companies, which recently sold it to Four Rivers Corporation.

The BMWED is a division of the Teamsters Rail Conference, which represents 70,000 men and women who work on freight and commuter railroads across the United States.