



## BROTHERHOOD OF MAINTENANCE OF WAY EMPLOYEES DIVISION

of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

### *Allied Federation*

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General Chairman

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Dear Allied Federation Brothers and Sisters:

It seems there is some confusion about the Allied Federation's position concerning the Union Pacific Total Safety Culture Program.

For the record, the safety of our members is of the utmost importance to your union representatives. That is why when I became aware of the BMWED participating in a safety agreement on the Northern portion of Union Pacific, I personally asked Vice President of Engineering David Connell if he would be willing to enter such an agreement on the Southern portion of the UP property. His response was that the safety agreement was a test program and at this time would not be offered to the southern portion of Union Pacific Railroad.

It seems Union Pacific has two different standards for safety, one for the members on the north end and another for those working on the south end. On the North end they want a partnership with the BMWED, and on the South end their management wants to foist their agreement upon our members.

Since that meeting with Vice President of Engineering David Connell, I have received numerous calls and much information at local lodge meetings that confirms the fact that our members are being forced to participate in the practice of observing and reporting on their fellow employees. I contacted Vice President of Engineering David Connell on August 27, 2009 and he has assured me that the Union Pacific Total Safety Culture Program **is** **voluntary** and would relay this information to his managers. Sometimes these instructions become lost in the chain of command. A good example of this is what occurred on July 11, 2009. I wrote Mr. Connell on July 17, 2009 regarding members of Gang 9101 being required to work in a severe thunderstorm. Mr. Connell replied on August 14, 2009, that he had received information from the supervisor about the incident and was planning to interview members of the gang on their next full half beginning August 23. He further wrote that "once we complete our investigation, we will report our findings back to you by August 31." **As of this date, I have not received that report.**

While your federation does not participate in the Total Safety Culture Program and, in fact, opposes certain aspects of the program, we are still encouraging you to work safely and comply with all Union Pacific Railroad operating rules and safety rules. We feel that **NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR SAFETY. That is why we believe that in order to improve safety at UP, any program that is designed to protect you should include your ideas and be constructed in a way that requires enforcement not just by our members but management as well.**

Total Safety Culture is a voluntary Union Pacific Railroad Program and not a Safety Agreement between the Union and the Carrier.

Fraternally,

Dennis Albers, General Chairman