

Brothers and Sisters of SMART-TD,

It is with great pride and honor that I pen this letter endorsing President Jeremy Ferguson for a second term as leader of SMART-TD. He is by far the most qualified and proven candidate that will lead our great union into the future.

The success of our union over the last nearly four years has been the result of a lot of teamwork by various departments, groups, and individuals, yet every successful team has a leader that guides the ship so to speak, and President Ferguson has been standing on the front line doing just that...leading our ship.

President Ferguson has slashed unnecessary spending and adopted more cost-effective measures to save us, the members, money. Our International office was moved to a more cost efficient building and many files that were kept in expensive storage were scanned to hard drives and saved. President Ferguson has also introduced smaller regional training sessions which have (for the most part) replaced the traditional once-a-year regional meeting.

Not only have those smaller, more intimate, regional training sessions saved money, but they've opened education opportunities for hundreds of our local officers. President Ferguson committed to making education a priority four years ago, and he's delivered. Aside from the regional training sessions, he and his team created SMART University. This invaluable tool gives the user a chance to learn at his own pace and location.

President Ferguson and his team negotiated vigorously on our last contract. It resulted in the biggest pay raise I have ever seen in my 20-year career. It also allows the general committees to negotiate with the carriers on voluntary off days. This is unprecedented and history changing to the railroad industry.

President Ferguson and his legislative team have worked closely with the Federal Railroad Administration to make our job safer. This cumulated with the FRA issuing a final rule establishing minimum safety requirements for the size of a crew.

President Ferguson is a true front-line leader. I urge all members of SMART-TD to stand with and support him for another term.

In Solidarity,

Scott M. Newton
1st Vice General Chairman
GO-927
SMART-TD