

UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL

LOCAL 971

SHOP NOISE



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IAM Union, Rail Labor Leaders Demand Safety Reform on Two-Year Anniversary of East Palestine Disaster

IAM Rail Division representatives joined members of Congress and leaders from fellow U.S. rail unions in calling on Congress to act on rail safety two years after the toxic East Palestine train derailment. “On behalf of all our members, our hearts still go out to the people of East Palestine. They want answers, they want results and so do we,” said Transportation Communications Union (TCU/IAM) National Legislative Director David Arouca. “The so-called Precision Scheduled Railroading (PSR) era has been nothing short of just cutting head counts to the bone and then harassing those who remain to pick up the slack.”



TCU/IAM represents various crafts, one of the largest being carmen, who maintain, repair and critically inspect rail cars all across the country. “Whether it’s our carmen being harassed to perform safety inspections on insane timelines or signalmen maintaining our national network of safety detectors, we’ve all been saying the same thing: PSR is going

to kill people,” said Arouca. “We need legislation passed now to reduce the risk of another East Palestine. The time to act was yesterday. Rail safety is not, nor should it ever, be a partisan issue.”

IAM District 19 President and Directing General Chair Reece Murtagh was also present to answer questions for the press. Members of Congress joining rail included House Transportation Committee Vice Ranking Member Emilia Sykes (D-Ohio), House Rail Subcommittee Ranking Member Dina Titus (D-Nev.), House Transportation Committee Member Troy Nehls (R-Texas) and House Transportation Committee Member Chris Deluzio (D-Pa.).

The rail leaders demanded that Class I railroad companies adopt the Federal Railroad Administration’s (FRA) Confidential Close Call Reporting System (C3RS), which allows rail workers to report safety concerns without retaliation from employers.

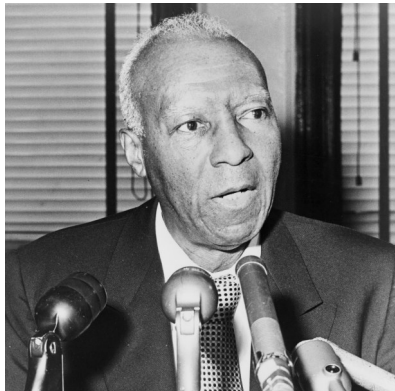
While addressing the public with his own press conference in East Palestine, Ohio on the disaster’s anniversary, U.S. Vice President JD Vance, who co-sponsored the bipartisan Railway Safety Act as Senator, said that passing legislation “is a very viable and a very reasonable goal.”

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We celebrate Black History Month by Honoring A. Philip Randolph

Asa Philip Randolph, born and raised in Florida, (April 15, 1889 – May 16, 1979) was an American labor unionist and civil rights activist. In 1925, he organized and led the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first successful African-American-led labor union.



“Freedom is never granted; it is won.”

International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers Local Lodge 971



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Senator Maria Cantwell sent a letter to U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Chairman Ted Cruz urging him to “advance the re-introduced Railway Safety Act to ensure President Trump and Vice President Vance have the tools they need to hold the railroads accountable for improving safety. “

“Rail safety is not a partisan issue or a regional issue, it is a human issue,” said Congresswoman Sykes. “I am proud to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on and off the Transportation Committee to put forth a piece of legislation we can be proud of, but we can only truly make it right for the people of East Palestine if we actually pass meaningful rail safety legislation.”

“I think we have a real opportunity here,” said Congresswoman Titus. “I think we can get it done, just reintroduce those bills, bring it together in a package, and move it forward. I’m committed to it, other members of Congress and the great representatives from unions are, so I’m leading this with optimism.”

IAM Union Urges Stronger Airline Worker Protections After Latest Serious On-Job Incident

Following a weekend incident at O’Hare International Airport in which an International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) Union ramp worker at United Airlines was seriously injured in a collision between a plane and a tug vehicle, the IAM Union is continuing to demand stronger safety measures for all airline workers.

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“We are thinking of our member who suffered serious injuries, and our union hopes for a speedy recovery,” said IAM International President Brian Bryant. “The IAM Union will coordinate with authorities on the ground to ensure we have a full investigation of what went wrong. The IAM safety committee and EAP representatives are on the ground to assist and support our affected members.”

“At least five airline workers have been killed and countless more injured on airport tarmacs in the last two years. Now, it is time for the FAA to complete and implement its congressionally-mandated study on ramp worker safety to help our industry improve the safety of airline ramp workers,” said IAM Air Transport Territory General Vice President Richie Johnsen. “The IAM Union is urging legislators to prioritize FAA reauthorization provisions that include ramp safety improvements before another incident occurs at one of our U.S. airports.”



Alaska and Hawaiian Airlines Begin Joint Bargaining Negotiations

Following the recent merger of Alaska Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines, preparations are underway for joint bargaining negotiations that will shape the future of the newly combined airline. This crucial process aims to integrate the workforce, align employment contracts, and establish cohesive operational policies.

With thousands of employees affected, union representatives from both airlines are stepping in to ensure a fair and seamless transition. One of the key challenges of the merger is reconciling in pay scales, seniority systems, and corporate cultures. As Alaska Airlines absorbs Hawaiian Airlines, both companies must navigate complex labor agreements while maintaining stability for their workforce. Pilots, flight attendants, and ground staff will all be impacted, making it essential for negotiations to address concerns about job security, benefits, and work conditions.

Union leaders are emphasizing the importance of collaboration to protect their member’s interests and create a unified workforce. By working together, they hope to establish agreements that respect the legacy of both airlines while fostering a strong, cohesive company moving forward. As negotiations continue, the focus remains on minimizing disruptions for employees and passengers while ensuring the success of the new airline.



Pause on U.S.-Canada Tariffs: A Win for Workers and North American Manufacturing

The IAM Union has expressed strong support for the pause on proposed U.S.-Canadian tariffs, highlighting the positive impact this decision will have on workers in both countries. By avoiding unnecessary trade tensions between two close allies, this pause provides an opportunity to create a more stable and secure future for aerospace and defense workers. The union emphasized the need for a new approach that prioritizes job security and strengthens North American manufacturing. For years, unfair trade deals have outsourced good paying jobs to countries with weaker labor protections, harming American and Canadian workers. This pause opens the door for government, business, and labor to collaborate on policies that protect jobs, support domestic industries, and enhance national security.

By taking this step, the U.S. and Canada have a chance to reset trade relations in a way that benefits working families and ensures the long term stability of the manufacturing sector. Instead of being caught in a cycle of uncertainty caused by tariff disputes, workers can now focus on growing their industries

and strengthening North America's supply chains. The IAM Union believes that with the right policies, both nations can foster economic growth while preventing job losses to countries that engage in unfair trade practices.

This decision also reinforces the importance of including labor voices in major trade discussions. Workers should not be treated as political bargaining chips but as essential stakeholders in shaping the future of North American industry. The IAM Union remains committed to advocating for policies that put workers first, ensuring that manufacturing jobs remain strong and competitive in the global market.

Union Meeting

February 16th

7:00pm

Executive Board Meeting at 6:30
Old Town Hall,
1000 Town Hall Ave., Jupiter

**We will be voting on our Union Dues and
it's pending increase**