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## **ILWU Reiterates Support for Railroad Unions: 'Supply Chain Workers are the Solution, not the Problem'**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA (September 13, 2022)** – Today, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Coast Longshore Division reiterated the union's support and solidarity with the nation's 115,000 railroad workers represented by 12 rail unions as they negotiate with private rail companies that have reaped record profits from U.S. rail network during the pandemic. The ILWU Coast Longshore Division represents 22,000 dockworkers in all 29 ports on the U.S. West Coast, and first announced its solidarity with the railroad worker unions on July 19.

"The railroad companies need to understand: The 1800's are over, and railroad workers should not be expected to endure working conditions that were wrong then and are still wrong today," said ILWU International President Willie Adams. "No weekends, no holidays, getting fired for getting sick or attending funerals, three worker fatalities in 10 days – No one should be forced to accept intolerable working conditions in 2022. The highly profitable, private railroad companies need to stop holding the nation's supply chain hostage, and they need to stop blaming the workers who are keeping cargo moving around the clock. Supply chain workers are the solution, not the problem."

"Workers never want to be forced to have to strike," said Bobby Olvera, Jr., ILWU International Vice President (Mainland). "But when they are pushed to that brink by highly profitable employers insisting on intolerable working conditions, we should all be there to support them. The ILWU supports the workers who are standing up not only for their own working conditions, but against the erosion of rights for all workers nationwide. The companies have the power and the obligation to keeping cargo moving for America's businesses, consumers and farmers by reaching a fair agreement that reflects the value of our supply chain workers."

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