



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS DISTRICT LODGE 19

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT DIRECTING GENERAL CHAIRMAN: ANDREW W. SANDBERG

January 26, 2024

Attention everyone!

You are cordially invited to attend a day of action on February 22, 2024, hosted by the IAM, District Lodge 19. Our aim is to raise awareness about critical issues that affect our communities and our members who work in railroad yards nationwide.

As a community, we all care about our citizens' and members' health and safety. To this end, the bipartisan Railway Safety Act (S. 576) has been the focus of media attention after the 2023 Ohio train derailment in East Palestine, which caused irreversible damage to the town and its residents.

The Railway Safety Act (S. 576) addresses several issues that need urgent attention. It ensures that employees, including qualified mechanical inspectors performing locomotive inspections, have appropriate training qualifications and proficiency. It also increases the maximum fines that the DOT may impose on rail carriers for violating safety regulations. Moreover, it requires the DOT to update rail car inspection regulations and audit the federal inspection program. It mandates a minimum two-person crew for certain freight trains and requires an additional daily inspection to be performed by a qualified mechanical inspector on locomotives in service on a Class I railroad. Additionally, it expands training for local first responders and provides funding for research and development to improve railway safety.

We need support to pass this bill to ensure safe railroad operations in our communities and allow our members to complete work safely with a proper workforce to support safe operations.

Let's stand together and demand the immediate passage of the Railway Safety Act (S. 576).

Respectfully,

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## **IAM Rail Union Members to Hold Informational Picket at Union Station Urging Support for Rail Safety Act to Protect Los Angeles Community**

Members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) District 19 and allies will gather for an informational picket outside Union Station, 800 N. Alameda St., Los Angeles, Calif. Union members will gather to advocate for the passage of the Rail Safety Act to help keep the Los Angeles community safe. The proposed legislation aims to enhance safety measures for railway employees and communities while transporting goods and passengers.

**Date:** Thursday, Feb. 22

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Location:** Union Station, 800 N. Alameda St., Los Angeles, Calif. in the square located in front of the entrance.

**Purpose:** IAM District 19 members and allies will be holding an informational picket to draw attention to the importance of the Rail Safety Act, which introduces crucial safety measures to protect workers and communities.

The bipartisan Railway Safety Act (S. 576) focuses on vital safety measures and creates a significant step toward safeguarding railway employees and the public. It also would prohibit railroad carriers from imposing impractical deadlines on railcar and locomotive inspectors. This ensures inspections are conducted thoroughly and diligently, promoting overall rail safety for communities.

Additionally, the legislation mandates that only highly skilled and qualified personnel are authorized to perform inspections, specifically for locomotives and pre-departure railcars. This eliminates the risk of relying on operating crews or untrained individuals, contributing to enhanced safety in rail transportation.

IAM District 19 members will be available for interviews after the informational picket.

*The IAM was founded as a railroad union in 1888, representing over 35,000 railroad workers nationwide. These members include the IAM's original craft, the locomotive Machinists, and various rail crafts represented by our merged affiliates, the Transportation Communications Union (TCU/IAM), and their Brotherhood of Railway Carmen Division (BRC).*