



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS DISTRICT LODGE 19

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT DIRECTING GENERAL CHAIRMAN: ANDREW W. SANDBERG

April 30, 2024

Dear District 19 Members,

I'm writing to provide you with crucial updates concerning recent events impacting our members at the BNSF shops. In March of this year, the carrier furloughed Members at various locations, including Tulsa, Oklahoma; Topeka, Kansas; Havelock, NE; Memphis, TN; Springfield, MO; Vancouver, WA; Gallup, NM; and Rapid Responders.

Following an exhaustive review with our legal counsel, it has been unequivocally determined that these furloughed members must be protected under the provisions outlined in the [September 1964 Agreement \(also listed in Appendix 7 of our Collective Bargaining Agreement\)](#). Under Section 2 of this agreement, it explicitly states that the protective benefits of the Washington Job Protection Agreement of May 1936 apply to employees who are deprived of employment or placed in a worse position due to changes in the carrier's operations, such as the transfer of work or facility consolidations.

General Chairman Kenny Krause will be taking decisive action by submitting a claim to the carrier to ensure the unwavering protection of these furloughed members. Additionally, another concerning issue has surfaced due to the furloughs of Boilermakers and Sheet Metal Workers, resulting in our remaining members being compelled to perform work outside of their crafts.

Specifically, machinists are being tasked with responsibilities for which they have not received adequate training. In response to this unacceptable situation, District 19 has collaborated with the Sheet Metal and Boilermaker Unions to provide them with all pertinent information to support their claims for their work.

For tasks that demand training, it is imperative that you promptly contact your local chairman and demand that the carrier performs a good faith safety challenge. This challenge, as delineated in this link [49 CFR § 218.97](#) - Good faith challenge procedures, ensures each employee's fundamental right to challenge whether the procedures used to execute a specific tasks comply with regulations and operating rules. This can also be found in the BNSF mechanical safety rules.

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As we navigate through these formidable challenges, it is paramount that safety and integrity remain at the forefront of all our endeavors. District 19 steadfastly remains committed to delivering the utmost representation for our members.

We will continue to vehemently oppose the carrier using contract language, carrier policies, and the law until a just conclusion is reached. I urge you to maintain close communication with your Local and District representatives to promptly report any issues you encounter. Your feedback is indispensable as we vigorously pursue a fair resolution.

In unwavering solidarity,



Andrew W. Sandberg
President/Directing General
Chairman IAM District Lodge 19