

THE BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD SIGNALMEN ENDORSES VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS FOR PRESIDENT

FRONT ROYAL, VA, OCTOBER 25, 2024 – The Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (BRS), representing over 10,000 skilled professionals across the U.S. and Canada, is proud to endorse Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as the next President and Vice President of the United States.

The well-being and livelihoods of railroad workers have long been shaped by decisions made at the federal level. The BRS carefully reviewed the records of both the Trump and Biden-Harris Administrations on matters critical to the rail industry and our members. The stark differences across 14 key areas make it clear that Vice President Harris is the candidate who stands with railroaders.

These areas include:

- 1. Investment in railroad infrastructure**, ensuring job creation and long-term development.
- 2. Support for the Confidential Close Call Reporting System (C3RS)**, promoting proactive safety management in rail operations.
- 3. Paid sick leave**, continuing to put pressure on the railroads that have not given their employees sick days.
- 4. Precision Scheduled Railroading (PSR)** and its impacts, especially on safety and workforce reductions.
- 5. Direct access to the White House**, ensuring railroad workers' voices are heard.
- 6. Restrictions on waivers** granted to railroads for safety regulations.
- 7. Passenger rail funding**, including Amtrak and high-speed rail projects.
- 8. National Mediation Board (NMB)** funding and appointments, ensuring timely dispute resolution.
- 9. Railroad Retirement Board** support and appointment of pro-labor officials.

- 10. Progressive leadership at the Department of Transportation**, led by Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.
- 11. Pro-labor appointments at the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)**, including Administrator Amit Bose.
- 12. Railroad safety rulemaking**, including two-person crew requirements.
- 13. Support for worker empowerment**, demonstrated by the White House Task Force on Worker Organizing.
- 14. Pension protections**, with the American Rescue Plan saving pensions for half a million workers.

Under the Trump Administration, the railroads enjoyed lax enforcement of regulations and policies. They were free to cut corners and cut jobs with the stamp of approval from the corporate-owned administration. Numerous waivers were granted, allowing carriers to skirt critical safety requirements. Former President Trump's policies emboldened railroads to further reduce their workforce under PSR—resulting in longer trains, fewer inspections, and more dangerous working conditions. This deregulatory approach had tragic consequences, including the derailment in East Palestine, Ohio.

In contrast, Vice President Harris, in tandem with President Biden, has fostered a safety-driven environment in rail operations. The FRA finalized a crucial two-person train crew rule and reinstated the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) meetings to include labor voices. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, a steadfast supporter of labor, worked with the FRA to push for the implementation of the C3RS close-call reporting system across Class I railroads, ensuring safer working conditions for railroaders.

Passenger rail investment is another clear distinction. The Trump Administration sought to dismantle Amtrak, proposing drastic budget cuts that would have gutted passenger rail service and cost thousands of jobs. Conversely, the Biden-Harris Administration has delivered historic levels of funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), including billions for high-speed rail projects and expanded Amtrak services. These projects promise long-term job creation and improved infrastructure for rail workers.

Vice President Harris' commitment to working people was also demonstrated when she cast the tie-breaking vote for the American Rescue Plan, saving the pensions of half a million workers. Moreover, the Administration's close collaboration with labor organizations, including the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, has been unprecedented. Vice President Harris' leadership in the White House Task Force on Worker Empowerment and Organizing is further evidence of her dedication to improving the lives of working Americans.

For the safety, job security, and future prosperity of all railroad signal employees, the choice is clear. Vice President Harris is the leader we need to ensure continued progress on these critical issues.

For more information about the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, visit: www.brs.org.

Members of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen play a critical role in maintaining the safety and reliability of the nation's rail infrastructure by installing and servicing essential signaling systems at highway-rail grade crossings and throughout the rail network.

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