



**INTERNATIONAL
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WORKERS®**

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LONNIE R. STEPHENSON
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International
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December 1, 2022

VIA EMAIL

To: All United States Senators

Re: IBEW Support for House Concurrent Resolution 119

Dear Senator:

On behalf of more than 775,000 active and retired members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, I write to respectfully express my support for the recently passed House Concurrent Resolution offered by Rep. Peter DeFazio (H. Con. Res. 119) to provide railroad workers with access to paid sick leave.

Over the past seven years, railroad carriers have pocketed \$146 billion in profits while shedding over 45,000 workers. During this time, railroad carriers have repeatedly refused to bargain in good faith with their workforce over both paid and unpaid sick leave.

IBEW members employed in the railroad sector, like those in all of the other unions negotiating with the freight railroad carriers, have been met with abject refusal to bargain for sick time. That means sick workers must report to work ill or risk disciplinary action. They also put their co-workers at risk of spreading infection in what is already a dangerous work environment. This has been the case throughout the course of the coronavirus pandemic, during which these workers have been deemed essential for their vital role in transportation commerce.

Having exhausted the Presidential Emergency Board process, the only recourse for these essential workers to obtain paid sick leave is through an act of Congress.

Your support for this resolution is crucial to the livelihoods of 115,000 essential workers across the country. Today, their welfare rests in the hands of the Senate. Please note that the IBEW will consider the votes on this matter in the legislative scorecard available to IBEW members.

The members of the IBEW strongly urge you to support railroad workers by passing this important legislation in the Senate.

Sincerely yours,

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

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