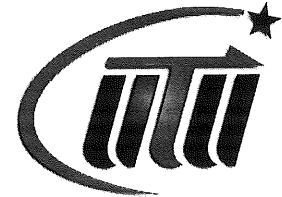


united transportation union

BNSF Railway General Committee of Adjustment GO-245



K.E. Trauernicht, 1st Vice Chairman
J.A. Scott, 2nd Vice Chairman
S.M. Waller, 3rd Vice Chairman

8250 West 80th Avenue
The Meadows Centre, Units 7&8
Arvada, Colorado 80005
Phone: (303) 420-1848

R.C. Taylor, 4th Vice Chairman
S.M. Waller, Secretary

November 1, 2010

Greg Fox
VP - Transportation
BNSF Railway
P.O. Box 961034
Fort Worth, TX 76161-0034

RE: Safety Summit Agreement (SSA)

Dear Mr. Fox,

This is in reference to your letter dated October 4, 2010, concerning the **“Application of the Safety Summit Agreement”**, and will further serve as a follow-up to my correspondence dated October 13, 2010, advising that our office was actively seeking guidance from our membership concerning this matter.

As a result of straw polls conducted by our Local Chairmen, it is the opinion of our membership, by an overwhelming margin, that we respectfully decline to accept or acquiesce to the proposed *interpretative applications* regarding the SSA as related in your above letter. Therefore, until such a time as the parties may again meet and reach a consensus on this historical document, this office will continue to embrace and enforce the fundamental terms and obligations as originally agreed.

During this polling period, our Local Chairmen and this office received countless calls and messages from our membership expressing not only their opinion, but the reasoning by which they reached their decision. We also visited several of our Locals recently, during which time our members personally related their opinion whether changes in the application of this agreement were necessary to maintain a safe work environment. Suffice to say that not a single member we spoke with attributes the recent rise in reportable injuries or increase in rule violations to the SSA. In fact, the vast majority are still of the opinion that if there were a renewed commitment, by BNSF and UTU, to the non-punitive Alternative Handling provisions of the agreement and the fatigue mitigation discussions that immediately followed implementation of SSA, all parties would benefit.

While our members have voiced a plethora of problems within the workplace that are impacting the operating crafts, I will not go into detail at this time. Nonetheless, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters with you. I do, however, feel it is safe to deduce that conditions that are negatively influencing safety in the workplace are not borne of the SSA, but primarily managerial decisions that continue to serve to erode the quality of life within these crafts.

As mentioned, this office stands ready to meet and discuss our joint concerns with fostering a safe and productive work environment and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R.S. Knutson', written in a cursive style.

R.S. Knutson
General Chairman

cc: J.B. Wright
R.W. Lease
S.C. Sexhus
J.L. Fleps
M.H. Siegele, Jr.
Local Chairman, GO-245
BNSF UTU General Chairmen
BNSF BLET General Chairmen