

Coordinated Bargaining Coalition Unions Support BMWED/SMART Mechanical Request For An End To Mediation

February 28, 2022 – By letter dated February 24, 2022, the rail bargaining coalition made up of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the Teamsters Rail Conference and the Mechanical Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers Union petitioned the National Mediation Board (NMB) for a proffer of arbitration, requesting to be released from further mediation sessions. If granted by the NMB, the proffer of arbitration is the next step in the process towards self-help and a potential Presidential Emergency Board to settle their contract dispute with the Nation’s rail carriers.



The Coordinated Bargaining Coalition (CBC) Unions*, which are likewise in negotiations with the same rail carriers, support the BMWED/SMART Mechanical request to be released from mediation and agree that the parties are at impasse and should be allowed to move the contract dispute to the next steps of the Railway Labor Act’s negotiation process. Although the CBC Unions are also in mediation with their next NMB-mediated bargaining session scheduled in March, the CBC made it clear to the NMB upon entering mediation that there is little if any hope of reaching a voluntary agreement in light of the rail carriers’ refusal to bargain in good faith with any of the Rail Unions. Therefore, the CBC fully expects to be making the same request for a release, and once all Rail Unions are released from mediation, the CBC will stand alongside

the BMWED/SMART Mechanical Coalition through the final steps of the Railway Labor Act negotiation process to bring the bargaining round to a successful conclusion.

A copy of BMWED/SMART Mechanical's February 23, 2022 letter to the National Mediation Board can be found at: [https://ble-t.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/BMWED SMART MD letter to NMB requesting proffer of arbitration-release from mediation.pdf](https://ble-t.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/BMWED_SMART_MD_letter_to_NMB_requesting_proffer_of_arbitration-release_from_mediation.pdf)

*The unions comprising the Coordinated Bargaining Coalition are: the American Train Dispatchers Association (ATDA); the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen / Teamsters Rail Conference (BLET); the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (BRS); the International Association of Machinists (IAM); the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers (IBB); the National Conference of Firemen & Oilers/SEIU (NCFO); the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW); the Transport Workers Union of America (TWU); the Transportation Communications Union / IAM (TCU), including TCU's Brotherhood Railway Carmen Division (BRC); and the Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers (SMART-TD).

Collectively, the CBC unions represent more than 105,000 railroad workers covered by the various organizations' national agreements, and comprise over 80% of the workforce who will be impacted by this round of negotiations.