

Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

For immediate release

October 6, 2011

PRESIDENT OBAMA NAMES PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY BOARD AVERTING NATIONAL FREIGHT RAIL STRIKE

Southfield, MI – President Obama appointed a five member Presidential Emergency Board (PEB-243) today, narrowly averting a national freight rail strike, or lock-out. On September 6, 2011, the National Mediation Board (NMB) released the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes Division of the Teamsters (BMWED/IBT), and ten other rail labor unions from mediation, and, pursuant to Section 5 of the Railway Labor Act, the parties were in a 30 day cooling off period that would have expired at 12:01 AM, October 7, had the President not appointed the PEB.

President Obama announced that he intends to appoint the following members to Presidential Emergency Board 243;

Ira F. Jaffe – Chair
Roberta Golick
Joshua Javits
Gil Vernon
Arnold M. Zack

The Presidential Emergency Board will hear arguments from the eleven labor unions, and the rail carriers, then issue a report and make recommendations. It is expected the Board will convene beginning October 17, in Washington, DC. The PEB will issue non-binding recommendations for a settlement by November 7, 2011. Following release of the PEB report, the parties will be subject to another 30 day cooling off period before the BMWED or the other unions could strike.

President Simpson recently polled members of the BMWED National Association who unanimously approved authorization for a national strike. “The BMWED, along with our brothers in the other ten rail labor unions have made it clear that we will not stand by and allow the rail carriers to gut our healthcare and deny our members a decent standard of living while they continue to reap record profits,” offered BMWED President Simpson. “A voluntary agreement would have been preferable, but we look forward to making our case to the Board”.

The Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters represent the men and women who build, construct, inspect and maintain the nation’s railroad tracks, bridges, buildings and equipment.

