

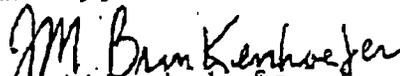


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Recently, the BLE and other unions have challenged the implementation of the remote control technology claiming that such operations are unsafe. They appear to be trying to use this process to either stop the use of remote control in the United States or to gain work for their own members. They have approached various levels of government, expressing their supposed safety concerns, except in Montana, where BLE has an agreement to operate Remote Control. The UTU obviously supports safety. We believe that it is in the best interest of safety to allow those who are party to the collective bargaining agreements to have ownership of the technology and continue to work in partnership with the FRA to make any improvements that may become necessary. It is our concern that those who don't own the technology should not use their political influence to try to gain through the political or legislative processes that which they have lost at the collective bargaining table, in the courts, at the regulatory agency and in arbitration.

If others approach your office who are not parties and ask for your involvement in efforts to improve safety or to ban the operation of remote control technology, I hope that you will take the time to review the record. We believe that having other groups involved in our efforts to maintain safe operation of this technology only inhibits safety. Many who have already reviewed the history of remote control operations believe that this is a jurisdictional dispute between two unions and have chosen not to get involved.

Sincerely yours,

  
James M. Brunkenhoefer  
National Legislative Director