

BYRON A. BOYD, JR.  
International President

PAUL C. THOMPSON  
Assistant President

DAN E. JOHNSON  
General Secretary and Treasurer



14600 DETROIT AVENUE  
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44107-4250  
PHONE: 216-228-9400  
FAX: 216-228-5755  
www.utu.org

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COMMISSION

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FAX and mail

All State Legislative Directors

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

My office is aware that at several locations, representatives of the other organization have proposed and/or promoted state/local legislation to limit remote control operations on safety grounds.

UTU's position on the safety of remote control operations is that the Federal Railroad Administration has issued comprehensive guidelines for remote control technology. In addition, existing Federal Railroad Administration regulations require that remote control operators be certified pursuant to a railroad training program approved by the FRA. Consistent with the approved training programs, UTU-represented employees receive at least 80 hours of training, both in the classroom and with the actual operation of remote control units. Only after they successfully complete this training are UTU members certified as remote control operators and assigned responsibility for remote control switching operations. By continually evaluating the capabilities and limitations of the technology, the UTU is determined to protect the safety of the employees we represent.

It is appropriate for state/local legislative bodies to be advised of UTU's position on these types of issues wherever the other organization raises them.

Fraternally yours,

Byron A. Boyd, Jr.  
International President

- cc: P. C. Thompson, Assistant President
- J. M. Brunkenhoefer, National Legislative Director (FAX and mail)
- All International Officers (FAX and mail)
- All General Chairpersons in National Handling (FAX and mail)