

BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS AND TRAINMEN

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Dear Sir:

I write this letter on behalf of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainman to object to the agreement that was made between the CN/EJ&E and the UTU that reduces the number of training days it takes to qualify as a conductor.

We object because reducing training causes unsafe working conditions for the employees and the Locomotive Engineer. We are concerned that a major incident or injury may occur.

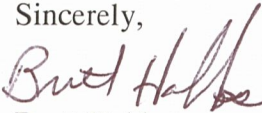
We, as Engineers, are the most qualified members of the crew, and the Carrier relies on us to assist in the development of new employees. Under the change, the Carrier also expects us to finish the training of the new employees once they are released from the "reduced" training program.

However, the reduced timeline adds undue stress and pressure on the Engineer, who already shoulders major responsibility on the job. The rules and regulations change occur at a fast pace in this industry, and the change doesn't afford the Engineer to ensure that a new employee is thoroughly and sufficiently trained to safely perform his job.

An improperly trained Conductor or Trainman opens the potential for accident or injury. Further, the Engineer may be injured or will be involved in the incident as a crew member.

I am only writing you to express our great concern that by reducing the number of training days for an employee is an extreme safety hazard and jeopardizes the everyday working conditions.

Sincerely,


Brett Hobbs

A Division of the Rail Conference—International Brotherhood of Teamsters