April 2, 2019

TO: ALL BMWED MEMBERS EMPLOYED BY MONTANA RAIL LINK

RE: MEMBERSHIP RATIFICATION MAIL REFERENDUM BALLOT
PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

The Non-Operating Craft Unions and Montana Rail Link have reached tentative agreement on our long awaited contract covering wages, rules, and working conditions for the term January 1, 2017, to January 1, 2022.

The tentative agreement is subject to ratification by the affected membership. Enclosed with this letter are 1) a summary of the terms of the tentative agreement; 2) the tentative agreement documents; 3) a ballot for you to cast your vote and a postage-paid return envelope.

Every Union involved in the bargaining is unified in recommending ratification of the tentative agreement. While not a perfect product, it represents our best effort to achieve a fair result. Regardless of whether you vote for or against the tentative agreement, I urge you to read the enclosed material and VOTE! CAST AND RETURN YOUR BALLOT BY MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2019.

Each Non-Operating Craft Union will conduct its own approval or ratification procedure. All of the involved Unions must ratify the tentative agreement for it to be signed and become effective. Each of the Unions have made a commitment to complete its ratification procedure on or before the week of April 29, 2019, which will allow us to notify MRL accordingly. And, if ratified, it will allow the bonus payments to be paid within 60 days.
The ratification process for BMWED members will be conducted through the use of the enclosed mail ballot sent to every BMWED member in good standing employed by Montana Rail Link. This mail ballot will be your only opportunity to cast your vote.

Only ballots returned by 4:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time, Monday, April 29, 2019, will be counted. A majority of ballots returned “for” or “against” the tentative agreement will determine ratification or rejection of the tentative agreement for BMWED.

Enclosed is a ballot for you to ratify or to reject the tentative agreement. Before marking your ballot, please read the enclosed summary and the tentative contract documents. Once you have reviewed the documents, please check the appropriate box on the ballot “to accept” or “to reject” the agreement. You should check only one box and make no other markings on the ballot. If you check more than one box, it will be considered void and not counted. After you have marked the ballot, please place it in the pre-addressed postage paid envelope and place it in the mail in time to allow it to be returned on or before 4:00 P.M. CST, Monday, April 29, 2019. Ballots received after that time will not be counted.

The ballots will be counted on April 29, 2019, by the Audit Committee of Local Lodge 144. Once all eligible ballots are counted, you will be informed of the results as soon as possible. If the tentative agreement is ratified by all of the Non-Operating Unions, it will be executed by the parties to become effective thereafter.

I strongly urge you to participate in the ratification process and recommend that you cast your ballot in favor of ratifying the tentative agreement.

In solidarity.

[Signature]

David L. Carroll
General Chairman

DLC/leh opeiu #12
Enclosures