



Elburn, Illinois. Photo by Ron Zack/Flickr

*"Lonnie, I can't thank you enough, for you guys all the way back in February endorsing me. I promise you: I will not let you down. **You're the people who keep this ENGINE RUNNING.** Wall Street didn't build America; **you built America.**"*

----Joe Biden, to the IBEW's 2020 Campaign Kick-Off, 7/8/20

## JOE BIDEN SUPPORTS FREIGHT RAILROAD WORKERS

- Sponsored a bill that enabled widows of railroad workers to receive their spouse's full Tier II Railroad Retirement pension benefits<sup>1</sup>
- Ensured that stimulus funding after the 2008 economic collapse went to rebuilding railroad infrastructure<sup>2</sup>
- **Stood with rail labor over his career**<sup>3</sup>
  - Advocated for robust federal investment in infrastructure
  - Fought for strong labor protections
  - Promoted Buy America provisions

## JOE BIDEN FIGHTS FOR UNIONS

- **Will check the abuse of corporate power over labor** and hold corporate executives personally accountable for violations of labor laws<sup>4</sup>
- **Promotes collective bargaining for workers** under the Railway Labor Act and commits to a high standard for intervening in strikes<sup>5</sup>

*The Wilmington train station was renamed the Joseph R. Biden Jr. Railroad Station in 2011.*

## JOE BIDEN IS CALLING FOR THE SECOND GREAT RAILROAD REVOLUTION

His **Clean Energy Plan** will use federal investments to:<sup>6</sup>

- **Create millions of good union jobs** building and upgrading a cleaner, safer, stronger infrastructure including railroads in rural and urban areas
- Build the **cleanest, safest, and fastest railroad system** in the world
- Further electrify the railroad system

*"Why as a country are we so boneheaded to not understand the **essential value of a rail system that's modern** throughout the whole country?"*

--Joe Biden, 8/26/16<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/bill/107th-congress/house-bill/10/cosponsors?searchResultViewType=expanded>

<sup>2</sup> <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/vice-president-biden-railroad-administrator-members-congress-announce-funding-amtra>

<sup>3</sup> <https://ttd.org/blog/joe-biden-is-the-best-candidate-for-transportation-workers-and-their-families/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://joebiden.com/empowerworkers/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://joebiden.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/UNITY-TASK-FORCE-RECOMMENDATIONS.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://joebiden.com/clean-energy/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/2016/08/26/wilmington-biden-announces-245-billion-amtrak/89399730/>



Malta, Illinois. Photo by Ron Zack/Flickr

*"Joe Biden recognizes **the necessity of a skilled, professional workforce** that will help revitalize the rail sector as a critical component of rebuilding America's infrastructure."*

--Lonnie R. Stephenson, IBEW International President

## TRUMP HAS FAILED FREIGHT WORKERS

### Trump's Department of Transportation

- Spent months lifting safety regulations for railroad carriers instead of protecting workers<sup>1</sup>

### Trump's Federal Railroad Administration

- Failed to prevent industry from prioritizing Wall Street profit and Precision Scheduled Railroading over safety and good jobs
  - Turning a blind eye to excessive train length<sup>2</sup>
  - Neglecting to rein in industry as safety worsened<sup>3</sup>
- **Granted excessive safety waivers** during COVID response
- Provided oversight only after rail labor called out the carriers' dishonest workforce shortage claims<sup>4</sup>

### Trump's National Mediation Board

- Stacked rail labor board with **anti-worker members** who made it easier for railroad workers to lose their union and collective bargaining<sup>5</sup>
- Prevented fair resolution of labor disputes<sup>6</sup>

## TRUMP'S ACTIONS THAT HURT RAILROAD WORKER SAFETY

- **Failed to act during a government shutdown** that resulted in the delay of investigations by the National Transportation Safety Board<sup>7</sup>
- Trump **threatened to veto the largest infrastructure bill ever considered** by the U.S. House of Representatives<sup>8</sup>
  - A bill that would have addressed the critical safety and workforce issues of PSR and was criticized by railroad carriers<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>[https://downloads.regulations.gov/DOT-OST-2017-0069\\_2784/attachment\\_1.pdf](https://downloads.regulations.gov/DOT-OST-2017-0069_2784/attachment_1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup><https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/699396.pdf>

<sup>3</sup><https://ttd.org/policy/precision-scheduled-railroading-threatens-to-gut-americas-freight-rail-system/>

<sup>4</sup>[https://www.progressiverailroading.com/federal\\_legislation\\_regulation/news/Unions-to-FRA-Railroads-must-recall-furloughed-workers-before-seeking-safety-waivers-60197](https://www.progressiverailroading.com/federal_legislation_regulation/news/Unions-to-FRA-Railroads-must-recall-furloughed-workers-before-seeking-safety-waivers-60197)

<sup>5</sup><https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-01-31/pdf/2019-00406.pdf>

<sup>6</sup><https://ttd.org/news-and-media/new-nmb-rule-undermines-aviation-and-rail-workers/>

<sup>7</sup><https://www.stb.gov/newsrels.nsf/219d1aee5889780b85256e59005edefe/ab75b1b4de5a31e78525836a006deea5?OpenDocument>

<sup>8</sup><https://www.forbes.com/sites/sergeiklebnikov/2020/07/03/senate-sleeps-on-house-democrats-15-trillion-infrastructure-bill-heres-why-its-doomed/#1295a046ee81>

<sup>9</sup><https://www.freightwaves.com/news/rail-groups-gear-up-for-infrastructure-bill-fight>