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### **ATDA Members Overwhelmingly Vote To Strike**

ATDA members covered under the National Agreement were issued ballots to vote for or against a strike if a settlement was not reached under the provisions defined in the Railway Labor Act. Over 99% of our voting members cast their ballot in favor of a strike. Their frustration in waiting over three (3) years without a raise and the railroads refusal to bargain in good faith, especially in light of their astronomical profits, is well founded. Our members are deemed essential workers and risked their health and well-being every day coming to work during the deadly pandemic to keep the freight moving and our economy sound. The Carriers' contract proposal would shift huge healthcare costs on our employees along with inadequate General Wage Increases (GWIs) that would be insufficient to combat the high inflation period that has caused financial hardship on each of our members.

On July 17, 2022, President Biden established a Presidential Emergency Board to address the deadlock in negotiations. Presidential Emergency Board 250 conducted hearings in Washington, D.C. this past week, concluding on July 28th. ATDA, as part of the 12 United Rail Unions, representing 115,000 members in every craft in the industry, presented a unified case on wages, healthcare, sick leave, and holidays to the Board. The PEB will make its recommendations to the President on or before August 15th. This will start a 30 day "Cooling Off" period to reach an agreement. If no agreement is reached at the end of the "Cooling Off" period, the ATDA, along with the other rail unions, are free to exercise self-help. The Carriers' can exercise their option to "lockout" the employees. Our affected General Chairmen will be instructed on proper procedures to follow in the event an agreement is not reached before the "Cooling Off" period expires. Congress can also intercede and legislate an agreement on the parties to end the dispute. The United Rail Unions goal has always been to reach a fair and equitable settlement.