



TEAMSTERS CANADA RAIL CONFERENCE

CONFÉRENCE FERROVIAIRE DE TEAMSTERS CANADA

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August 28, 2012

Mr. Phil Benson
Lobbyist
Teamsters Canada
2439 Orient Park Drive
Gloucester, Ontario
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Dear Sir and Brother,

This is in reference to recent discussions concerning the banning of the use of personal cell phones when engaged in railway operations. In light of the many incidents that have occurred involving the use of cell phones resulting in both fatalities and serious rail accidents the National Legislative Board of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference has adopted a resolution to lobby government to ban the use of all cell phones in operating cabs of all trains and locomotives. This initiative is necessary as it is evident that a double standard exists whereby although rail companies have recognized that cell phone use is a serious distraction to safe rail operations, these same companies choose to continue to issue and promote the use of cell phones in locomotive cabs to assist and benefit their operations. This is an unacceptable practice as this action promotes the use of cell phones in what the rail companies deem special circumstances, effectively and at the same time skirting the very same critical safety hazards identified, documented, and posed by this unwarranted practice. It is also of extreme significance to note that all provinces have since enacted legislation banning cell phone usage having recognized the dangers posed by the action of the use of cell phones while operating a motor vehicle. Although there are significant differences in the operation of a train and a motor vehicle, the same basic premise exists as it relates to the critical safety hazard posed by distractions created in using a cell phone while operating a train or a motor vehicle.



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To this end, the National Legislative Board has decided to seek the assistance of Teamsters Canada on this important issue and formally requests your assistance to lobby the Government of Canada in this important safety initiative. It is hoped that through the efforts of Teamsters Canada in conjunction with the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference the goal of providing a safer rail environment for all employees and the travelling public can be achieved. The loss of lives and the grief suffered by families is more than enough to warrant any inconvenience this may cause rail companies in bringing about this positive change.

I thank you in advance for your participation and cooperation and look forward to your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.D. Smith', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert D. Smith
National Legislative Director
Teamsters Canada Rail Conference

cc. National Legislative Board