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Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Our UTU members' greatly assisted with the passage of H.R. 2095, the Federal Railroad Safety Improvement Act, which, among other positive provisions, would increase the number of Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) safety inspectors.

Efforts by our National Legislative Office in Congress are putting increasing scrutiny on the probability of underreporting by railroads of employees' injuries, as well as harassment and intimidation of workers who request time off when they are tired or sick.

In this regard, the FRA has begun an initiative, fully supported by the UTU, to gain direct input from train and engine service employees regarding the relationships between fatigue, quality of life, hours of service violations, limbo time and crew shortages. Such a study will provide a better understanding of the situations our members are placed in when railroads do not hire enough crews, forcing T&E service employees to be moved up in turns.

You are among a random sample of UTU members nationwide who are being asked to fill out work/sleep diaries for a two-week period. You are being requested to complete a brief background survey, keep a daily log for 14 consecutive days of your sleep and work times, and self-assessments of your level of alertness five times each day.

The information provided will be strictly confidential, and the FRA has engaged the consulting firm of Foster-Miller to conduct the study, tabulate the results, and insure the privacy of survey participants. The names of participants and their responses will not be divulged in any fashion, and the data gathered will be used solely to complete the study. After the study is complete, all personal data will be destroyed.

We estimate that it should require fewer than 15 minutes to complete the background survey, and making the entries in the log should required fewer than 10 minutes daily. You will receive a \$75 gift certificate to either Home Depot or Sears in exchange for your completing the survey according to instructions.

Your participation is crucial to developing a database on work/rest schedules and sleep patterns of operating crews – a database that will better help to identify fatigue-related problems affecting train and engine service crews. The final report will be made available to all members.

Please read carefully the enclosed instructions before beginning the background survey and daily log.

Fraternally yours,

Paul C. Thompson
International President

Enclosure

cc: R.L. Marceau, Assistant President

