



NEWS RELEASE

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TOP AMERICAN LABOR OFFICIALS JOIN PREMIER HIGH SPEED RAIL ADVOCACY GROUP

Fight for More High Speed Rail Funding, Create American Jobs

[WASHINGTON, DC] The American High Speed Rail Alliance today announced the addition of four top rail labor officials to its Advisory Board. The new members represent the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, Transportation Communications International Union/IAM, and United Transportation Union. These organizations represent hundreds of thousands of American workers in the transportation industry.

“We are very proud to have leaders from the American labor movement as part of the American High Speed Rail Alliance,” said former Congressman Al Swift, Chairman of the Advisory Board.

“Together they represent so many hardworking American men and women all across this country. We welcome them and their leadership in joining our effort to fight for high speed rail funding and American jobs.”

New members of the Advisory Board include:

- **Dan Pickett**, International President, Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen
- **John Tolman**, Vice President and National Representative, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLE-T);
- **Ron Kloos**, International Vice President and National Legislative Director, Transportation Communications International Union/IAM (TCU/IAM)
- **John Risch III**, U.S. Alternate National Legislative Director, United Transportation Union (UTU)

The BRS represents nearly 9,500 members working for railroads across the U.S. and into Canada; signalmen install, repair and maintain the signal systems which railroads utilize to direct train movements. The UTU represents 125,000 active and retired railroad, bus and mass transit workers in the U.S. and Canada. The Transportation Communications International Union represents approximately 46,000 members in the U.S., most employed in the railroad industry. The BLE-T represents 59,000 locomotive engineers, conductors, brakemen, firemen, switchmen, hostlers and other train service employees on numerous railroads in the U.S.

“I am pleased to be a part of the premier high speed rail advocacy organization here in this country,” explained John Tolman, Vice President and National Representative for BLE-T. “High speed rail funding here means jobs, and that’s what we’re about. We want to work with the American High Speed Rail Alliance and all Americans who want a strong and robust passenger rail system here in the U.S. that will support good-paying American jobs, especially in this economy.”

“It really is all about jobs, jobs, jobs,” said Dan Pickett, International Vice President, BRS. “Every \$1 billion spent on passenger transportation infrastructure means 24,000 capital jobs and 41,000 operating jobs per year. In this economy with nearly double digit unemployment, we need to put Americans back to work. High speed rail funding is one of the best ways to do it, and I am proud to associate myself with a group that is dedicated to this cause.”

“High speed rail development not only creates jobs,” said Ron Kloos, International Vice President and National Legislative Director, TCU/IAM, “but produces careers that pay enough to support a family.”

“Why should China, Japan, and Europe have high speed rail systems, but we don’t have it here in the U.S.,” says John Risch, U.S. Alternate National Legislative Director for UTU. “We shouldn’t settle for 3rd place or even 2nd place. We should only settle for 1st place. And until we have a robust and sustainable funding stream in place for high speed rail, we will always be a runner-up. American workers shouldn’t have to settle. We have to do better, and by working together with the American High Speed Rail Alliance, I know we will do better.”

The American High Speed Rail Alliance is a U.S.-based, not-for-profit 501(c)(6) organization that advocates for ensuring sustainable funding sources for the development and implementation of a high speed passenger rail network in the United States including, but not limited to federal, state and local funding, public/private partnerships, government-backed bonds, tax credits, tax incentives, and private sector investments. For more information, visit <http://www.americanhsra.org>.

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