

Sunflower Alliance endorses the call to nationalize the railroads initiated by Railroad Workers United.

The railroad companies are maximizing their profits at the expense of workers, communities, and the environment. Trains are understaffed and operators have erratic work schedules. Infrastructure is aging, trains are excessively long, and safety equipment like Electronically Controlled Pneumatic brakes is not installed.

As a result, catastrophic derailments are not accidents—they are predictable outcomes of the greed of corporations.

Communities near the tracks—primarily people of color and poor residents—are most at risk, making train safety a matter of environmental justice. We have seen environmental devastation from derailments of toxic freight, and we can expect more.

Nationalizing the railroads is less radical than it sounds when we note that governments within the U.S. own highways, parks, and utilities, and that railroads are government-owned in many countries throughout the world. Multiple derailments of U.S. trains underscore the need for nationalization. As an organization dedicated to environmental and climate justice, Sunflower Alliance supports the RWU's call to nationalize the railroads.