

Resolution

The North Piedmont of North Carolina local of the Socialist Party USA endorses the Railroad Workers United campaign for Public Rail Now. We stand with them in calling for the public ownership of the freight rail corporations and, with this, the railroad tracks upon which all trains run. This public entity would operate under a board composed of representatives of the railroad workers, the federal government, the communities along the lines and those shipping freight.

As socialists, we see the proposal of the Public Rail Now as a first step toward an integrated railroad system that would encompass both the freight rail lines and the passenger service of AMTRAK. Railroads could be a key component of a program to counter climate change, as we move people from cars and into mass transit and freight from trucks to rail.

For this to happen, we need to construct a nationwide system of high-speed rail lines. The United States lags behind other industrialized societies in creating such a system. It is high time that we start.