



## Railroad Cooperation and Education Trust

*The Railroad Cooperation and Education Trust (RAILCET) is a labor-management partnership between the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), and the member contractors of the National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association (NRC), all of whom are signed to the Rail Transportation and Operation Agreement (RTOA).*

### RAILCET Gives Laborers, Rail Contractors a Voice in Washington

Laborers, Operating Engineers, and RTOA contractors all gained an added voice in Washington, DC when RAILCET acquired a presence there in 2009. The fund hired the former president of the NRC to promote its legislative agenda and to build relationships with members of Congress, Federal Railroad Administration officials, and representatives of other rail-related federal agencies.

As Congress considered the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), RAILCET pushed for greater funding of rail infrastructure, and for competitive bidding on railroad projects funded by the bill. The trust prepared and presented testimony on a comprehensive rail program before the House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials. RAILCET also persuaded key railroad industry groups to include prevailing wage provisions in a proposed federal tax credit for spending on rail maintenance, improvement, and repair.

RAILCET closely coordinated all of these efforts with the legislative affairs departments of LIUNA, IUOE, and the NRC.



### OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Alerted RTOA contractors to rail-related bid opportunities.
- Developed a RTOA contractor directory to connect users of rail-related construction services with RTOA contractors.
- Coordinated training for employees of RTOA contractors.
- Helped RTOA contractors win more than 1.5 million hours of work.
- Promoted RTOA contractors, LIUNA, and the IUOE at rail industry trade shows and conferences, and in trade publication advertisements.



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