



Ohio BLET Members – Help Us Fix RRB!

Currently, Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA) unemployment benefits and sickness benefits are being sequestered – or reduced – at the rate of 5.9%. In the past, these rates have been adjusted annually when the federal sequestration is recalculated. Railroaders have seen their benefits sequestered as high as 9.2% in the past.

On June 11, the BLET — in conjunction with the Teamsters Rail Conference — joined all other unions in the rail industry and contacted Ohio Senators Rob Portman and Sherrod Brown to request that they jointly co-sponsor language consistent with the HEROES Act (H.R. 6800) that would eliminate sequestration of RUIA benefits, which unjustly reduces the unemployment and sickness benefits of railroad workers.

Specifically, the unions are asking the Senators to rescind the sequestration of RUIA benefits by amending the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to include RUIA among the other various programs that are not subject to sequestration. Senator Portman is chairman of the Senate subcommittee where a decision on sequestration will be made.

We are asking all BLET members living in Ohio to get involved! Please contact Senators Brown and Portman and request the following:

“Hello - My name is _____. I am a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen and I live in (City/Town), Ohio. I am calling to urge the Senator to co-sponsor legislation to end the sequestration of Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA) benefits.”

You can call Senator Rob Portman at (202) 224-3353 or Senator Sherrod Brown at (202) 224-2315 or 1-888-896-6446.

You may not actually speak with your Senator, so ask for the staff member who handles Labor or Transportation issues. Please be respectful to them, just as you would if speaking with your Senator personally. We also encourage supportive family members and friends to get involved!

A copy of the joint letter to the Senators is available at:
https://www.ble-t.org/pr/pdf/Brown_Portman_Letter.pdf

A message from the BLET Mobilization Team