



May 8, 2018



Dear [REDACTED]

This Statement of Reasons is in response to the complaint you filed with the Department of Labor on December 17, 2017, alleging that violations of Title IV of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA) occurred in connection with the election of union officers conducted by the Consolidated Rail System Federation (CRSF) of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division (BMWED) of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters at the CRSF convention on September 17, 2017.

The Department conducted an investigation of your allegations. As a result of the investigation, the Department has concluded, with respect to the specific allegations, that there was no violation of the LMRDA that may have affected the outcome of the election.

You alleged that incumbent officers Perry Geller, Jr., Jesse Dewe, and Jason Graham improperly served as delegates to the CRSF convention for several lodges. You alleged that their representation of multiple lodges resulted in their obtaining a large number of votes and having control over the election process, placing you at a disadvantage. Section 401(c) of the LMRDA prohibits disparate treatment of candidates for union office.

As a labor organization that chooses its officers by a delegate convention, CRSF is required by section 401(f) of the LMRDA to conduct the convention in accordance with its constitution and bylaws insofar as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of the LMRDA. See 29 C.F.R. § 452.2. Article II section 1(b)(4) of the CRSF bylaws provides that a delegate "may represent as many Lodges as may elect him if the total membership so represented does not exceed five hundred (500) members." The investigation disclosed that no delegate who was elected by more than one lodge represented more than 500 members: Dewe represented five lodges with a total of 133 votes; Geller represented nine lodges with a total of 341 votes; and Graham represented four lodges with a total of 110 votes. All other delegates represented only one lodge each. The bylaw in question is not inconsistent with the provisions of Title IV of the LMRDA, and the investigation revealed no evidence of disparate treatment in the application of the bylaw. There was no violation of the LMRDA.

You also alleged that, during the nominations process at the convention, BMWED Vice President of South Region Roger Sanchez, election chair for the CRSF officer election, called on certain individuals to stand up and make nominations for officer positions. The investigation established that BMWED Secretary-Treasurer Perry Geller, Sr., provided Sanchez with a list of delegates who were going to nominate and second nominations for certain nominees who intended to run for officer positions. Sanchez began nominations by calling on the delegates from Geller's list to make and second nominations for their nominees. Sanchez then asked for additional nominations. You stated that you were not offered the opportunity to be on a list of delegates making nominations so that you could be called on. However, you acknowledged, and the convention meeting minutes confirmed, that you and other delegates who were not initially called on from the list were given an opportunity to nominate and second nominations. The union's constitution and bylaws contain no provisions governing how the nomination process at the CRSF convention must be conducted. There was no violation.

For the reasons set forth above, the Department of Labor concludes that there was no violation of the LMRDA that may have affected the outcome of the election. Accordingly, I have closed the file on this matter.

Sincerely,

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Sharon Hanley
Chief, Division of Enforcement

cc: Freddie N. Simpson, National Division President
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