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April 27, 2005

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Mr. R. S. Knutson (951)
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Mr. J. D. Fitzgerald (1637)
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Mr. L. R. Bumpurs (524)
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Mr. D. B. Snyder (1841)
General Chairperson, GO-387
45 SW 7th Avenue
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Dear Sirs and Brothers:

This is to advise you that pursuant to Articles 16 and 92 of the UTU Constitution you are hereby instructed that at 2:00 p.m. (CST) April 27, 2005, I have authorized a peaceful withdrawal from service from the BNSF Railway. The work stoppage affects only the former Burlington Northern (BN) Railroad portion of BNSF and not the former Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe (ATSF) portion of the carrier.

This withdrawal is not to affect rail-passenger or commuter operations hosted or staffed by BNSF, and UTU members will continue to perform all passenger-related functions on BNSF and Amtrak.

The UTU work stoppage is in response to BNSF's unilateral change to Section 3 of Article XIII of the UTU 1985 National Agreement that provides for engineers with train-service seniority to only use that seniority if they cannot hold a position as engineer. The BNSF violated the *status quo* under that agreement this month by permitting engineers, who could hold an engineer position, to remain in train service.

The reason the ATSF portion of the property is not being affected by the work stoppage is because in 2001, the UTU and BNSF signed an agreement as to the former ATSF portion of the property providing that junior engineers would be forced to vacant engineer positions if senior engineers wanted to remain in train service. BNSF is now doing the same thing on the BN portion of the property, but without a signed agreement with the UTU, and that violates the *status quo* required to be maintained by the law.

The conduct on the picket lines will be governed by UTU strike policy instructions and applicable provisions of the UTU Constitution.

Fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul C. Thompson".

Paul C. Thompson
International President

cc: R. L. Marceau, Assistant President
D. E. Johnson, General Secretary and Treasurer
D. L. Hakey, Vice President – Administration
J. A. Huston, General Chairperson, GO-009
W. E. Young III, General Chairperson, GO-017
P. W. Tibbit, General Chairperson, GO-393
J. England, General Chairperson, GO-020
C. E. McDaniel, General Chairperson, GO-341