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Washington, December 1 (RHC)-- U.S. President Biden has sided with big business and urged Congress to intervene to block freight rail workers from going on strike, saying it could devastate the economy.

Biden asked lawmakers to quickly pass legislation to impose a labor deal that has been opposed by the majority of freight rail workers.

In a statement, Biden said: “As a proud pro-labor President, I am reluctant to override the ratification procedures and the views of those who voted against the agreement. But in this case -- where the economic impact of a shutdown would hurt millions of other working people and families -- I believe Congress must use its powers to adopt this deal.”

Many union activists criticized Biden’s move to block a strike. Ron Kaminkow, a locomotive engineer and organizer for Railroad Workers United, told reporters: “We could have seen Biden actually opt for telling Congress he would like to see Congress pass legislation that mediates an end to the conflict under which more favorable terms to the workers, which is to say a handful of sick days. And that’s what this has come down to. Railroad workers traditionally have had no sick time. And now with the very, very harsh attendance policies that we’re faced with, railroad workers get very, very little time off work.”

This all comes as profits soar for the freight rail industry, which has reduced the rail workforce by 30% over the last six years.

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