



# Korean Federation of Public Services and Transportation Workers' Unions

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File Ref.: KPTU-ER-2014-124  
Date: 27 February 2014  
Subject: Statement in Solidarity with RTBU against the Aurizon Rail Operator Lockout

Recipients:

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Australian Rail, Tram and Bus Industry Union (RTBU)

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## **Korean Transport Workers' Condemn the Aurizon Lockout**

Dear General Secretary Bob Nanva and RTBU brothers and sisters,

On behalf of the close to 150,000 members of the Korean Federation of Public Services and Transportation Workers' Unions (KPTU) and particularly the 21,000 members of the KPTU-affiliated Korean Railway Workers' Union (KRWU), we write to express our outrage at Aurizon's lockout against coal freight train drivers and our full support with your strike for a fair collective agreement.

We are aware that some 200 freight drivers were forced to go on strike on February 25<sup>th</sup> after

management refused to engage in sincere collective bargaining. We recognize that this strike was fully legitimate and widely supported by RTBU members. We are saddened and outraged that management has responded by declaring a lockout, rather than coming to the negotiation table in good faith.

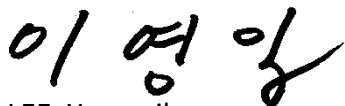
It is perhaps a coincidence, but February 25 was marked by several important struggles by railway workers around the world. In Strasburg, France thousands of European railway workers gathered in a successful protest against the 4<sup>th</sup> Railway Package, which seeks further liberalization of EU member states' domestic passenger railways. In Korea, the KRWU carried out a 24-hour strike against fundamental labor rights violations and unilateral railway privatization and restructuring, building on the momentum from our 23-day anti-privatization strike last year. In Australia, you began an important strike for decent working conditions, which has now developed into a struggle against labor repression.

It is time that our struggles become connected and that we begin to take action as one. We send you our heartfelt solidarity and promise to do whatever we can to help you overcome this unjust lockout. We also promise to work with you to build a united campaign to defend railway workers' conditions and fundamental labor rights.

In solidarity



LEE, Sang Moo  
President,  
Korean Federation of Public Services and Transportation Workers' Unions (KPTU)



LEE, Yeong-ik  
Acting President,  
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