

# An Injury To One Is An Injury To All

Do you understand those words, drivers who opt-in? If enough of you opt-in you will do me and many others a great injury. You are splitting the grade make no mistake about it although some of you like to salve your conscience with the thought that if the deal goes through the opt-outers, the defenders of union principle, will dwindle in number and the split in the grade will only be temporary. Yes, we will dwindle, and god knows who will defend the union then, but there are some young drivers who will be giving up 30+ years of pay increases to defend this principle, I salute those drivers. 30+years is not temporary, it is generational! Opt-inners, you will have to work alongside people for 30+ years who you have stabbed in the back because you failed to watch their back and stand together when the time came. It pains me to say this and I am sorry for the offence but I have to say that you are unprincipled.

Why are drivers in the strong position they are now? Because, throughout the decades they have stood together. Are you really capable of leaving some drivers behind just for money?

And a word to drivers who are nearing retirement and are contemplating opt-in. I can see that this offer must look quite tempting with its nice little pension boost, it must seem like the icing on the cake. But look at that cake in isolation: it is substantial, we could all survive comfortably on that pension. Again, the reason it is so substantial is because we have had the unity and strength to defend it and win good pay rises throughout the years. Do you really want your legacy to be splitting the grade just for the sake of some icing? Remember, in your retirement that it will be those left behind who will be defending your continued receipt of that pension but opting-in will weaken our ability and resolve to do that.

So, who is responsible for this sorry state of affairs? The blame lies firmly with the union leaders. When these people react angrily to the arguments of the opt-outers you know that on the inside they must be suffering torment. They don't have a response for those arguments, arguments they themselves have spent decades espousing. But now look where you are, you hollow men, what do you have left when you yourself have led the charge to smash up the foundations on which your life work has been built. When the dust settles on this, union heads must roll.

The principled position remains to opt-out. Stick with that and the deal will fall, we can then turn this dismal state of affairs around, maintain our unity and be able to restart negotiations as one united group of workers. If you agree with the position set out here please make copies of this letter and get it to all the depots. Join the opt-out campaign by emailing [outcampaignemt@gmail.com](mailto:outcampaignemt@gmail.com).

**Opt-out to defend union principles**