

John Tolman has served as Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Vice President & National Legislative Representative since June 2006. Prior to his election, he served the BLET in various capacities, most recently as Legislative & Political Director and Chief of Staff. He began his career as a National/International staff member in 1996.

John Tolman began his railroad career as a hostler in 1971 shortly after graduating from Watertown High School in Watertown, MA. He advanced to the position of fireman and was promoted to locomotive engineer in 1974. During the course of his railroad career, he has worked for New York Central Railroad, Penn Central Railroad, Conrail, the Boston and Maine Railroad and Amtrak. He earned both a bachelors degree in Marketing and a master's degree in Business Administration while working on the railroad. He joined the BLET on March 1, 1980.

John Tolman has long been an advocate for safety in the railroad industry. He has testified before Congressional Committees several times in the past, and was involved in the efforts toward the passage of the Rail Safety Act of 2008. Additionally, he has worked with the NTSB on over a dozen accident investigations.

John Tolman comes from both a union and railroad family which has also had significant involvement in politics. John was the Chairman for several years of the Melrose, MA, Democratic Party. He also was elected to the Melrose City Council in 1995.