



BUILDING AMERICA®

May 24, 2023

Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Co-Chair Elizabeth Steiner
900 Court St. NE, S-213
Salem, Oregon 97301

Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Co-Chair Tawna Sanchez
900 Court St. NE, H-273
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: City of Echo – Pedestrian rail crossing project funding

Co-Chair Steiner and Co-Chair Sanchez:

On behalf of Union Pacific Railroad (UP), I am writing to express our strong support for the City of Echo's work in collaboration with Oregon Department of Transportation to plan, fund, design and build a pedestrian grade separation project (Project).

UP operates one of Oregon's two class 1 freight rail networks, connecting Oregon businesses to the broader American economy. With that connectivity in mind, Union Pacific strongly supports efforts to enhance access to both sides of UP right of way in the City of Echo. The proposed Project will enhance access for pedestrians, particularly students, navigating UP's rail infrastructure and improve overall fluidity in the downtown Echo area.

The Project is a top priority for the City of Echo and Umatilla County. Currently, the rail line in Echo has 10-15 freight trains per day moving through the area. The Project will enhance safe movement of pedestrians by mitigating conflicts between pedestrians and freight rail traffic.

Thank you for considering UP's support of the Project in your funding review. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Aaron Hunt

cc:

Adrian Guerrero, Union Pacific Railroad
Cindy Robert, Union Pacific Railroad