

Submitter:

Arthur Martin

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB723

As a retired railroad engineer, I cannot express the importance of SB723 enough.

Rail operating employees do not have set schedules to work or perform the very important duties of moving United States freight, goods or essential needs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or 365 days a year. The train crews are on unscheduled call for work (9 times out of 10), without knowing more than 2 or 3 hours in advance of their on-duty time. Then once on duty, they can and usually will be required to move the train along miles of curves, hills, mountains, rivers, highways and communities in a safe manner not only for the public but also for themselves.

After many years of performing this job for the Union Pacific Railroad, I must say there were numerous times when I felt the fatigue and tiredness come over me. In the early days of my career, there were 2-3 crew members in the locomotive and 2 more in the caboose. At times I could have dozed off mentally if it were not for the other crew members saying to me, "Hey, how you doing over there? Can I get you a cup of coffee or a bottle of water?".

These jobs and duties are very important and should not be scoffed at as minimal, but rather very essential such as are all first responders. First responder is exactly what the train crew becomes when there is an incident or accident in this very heavy industrial job.

As a 47-year, 4th generation railroader I ask this Oregon legislative body to adopt SB723 for a two-man crew.

Respectfully,
Arthur Martin