

Submitter: Ginny Van Loo
On Behalf Of: SB 723
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB723

My name is Ginny Van Loo, I would like to express my support for Senate Bill 723. This bill has come to my attention based on the fact that I was married to a railroad engineer for 18 years and currently my nephew works for the railroad. I can tell you without a doubt that the railroad has been on a downward spiral since the early 90's when they removed the conductor and installed Freddie on the caboose. Since then they continue to eliminate safety features and employees. I cannot imagine an engineer working alone in the cab of the engine. For one thing, that 2nd person can see one side of the engine and the engineer the other. It is a safety thing. The Executives of the railroads think this is a savings to the railroads when in fact, look at all the train wrecks and derailments have happened recently. These executives are more than happy to receive their \$35,000,000 bonuses when their actual workers are being maimed and killed regularly due to unimproved rails, ground crews working alone, my nephew almost was one of those statics and if it hadn't been for an additional ground crew he would probably be dead today.

This bill is simply a matter of safety, not only for the workers but every person that sits at a railway crossing, walks the tracks or gets close to a train. Ground crews do the switching but the Engineer has to stop the train. If alone in the cab, has a heart attack or any kind of medical issue, who will stop the train. It is my understanding that the emergency equipment only slows the train down, it does not stop it. The rule of 2 only make good safe sense. It is the right thing to do. Please support by voting Aye on the passage of SB 723. Make Oregon the 14th state to protect their railroad workers.

Thank you,
Ginny Van Loo