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February 28, 2019

Joint Transportation Committee

HB 2970

Dear Co-chairs and Members of the Committee

My name is Bobbie Hickey and I am the General Manager at Cornerstone Industrial Minerals in Lakeview Oregon. We are serviced by Goose Lake Railway, who leases a Class 1 railroad from Lake County. We have used this railroad for over 20 years and ship over 75% of our product to customers all over the US and Canada.

We here at Cornerstone Industrial Minerals strongly oppose House Bill 2970, which seeks to establish mandatory minimum crew size for trains in Oregon.

Over the years we have made it over many hurdles to keep our product flowing out on the Lake County Line. The passing of HB 2970 would most likely cause:

- Limited service at times to our already tight schedule that we have with the rail line.
- Increase cost of shipping our product, which has been increasingly difficult to maintain our customer base when we must keep passing on additional costs.
- Passing this bill will undoubtedly have a huge financial impact and loss of rail only customers here at Cornerstone Industrial Minerals.
- Crew size mandates would divert traffic from rail to highway-using trucks, which are less fuel efficient, create congestions and damage the national highway system.

Rail staffing, specifically the number of persons in a train locomotive has been a matter of collective bargaining and should remain that way. Any changes to agreement regarding crew size are already subject to the existing statutory collective bargaining process under the Railway Labor Act.

We here at Cornerstone Industrial Minerals Corporation, respectfully urge you to oppose House Bill 2970.

Thanks for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bobbie Hickey'.

Bobbie Hickey
General Manager
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