



March 1, 2019

Joint Transportation Committee

RE: HB 2970

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments regarding House Bill 2970, which seeks to establish mandatory minimum crew size requirements for trains in Oregon. Coos Bay Rail Line, Inc. (CBRL) opposes this measure and urges you not to pass it.

CBRL is a short line railroad operating in rural southwestern Oregon. Our mainline track runs from the UP Yard in Eugene, west toward Florence, Oregon, then south to Coquille Oregon. The line serves 10 primary shippers that employ nearly 1,000 people with family wage jobs in an economically depressed region of Oregon.

CBRL opposes House Bill 2970 because it could have a stifling impact on rail service in Oregon. Few states have enacted measures to establish minimum crew sizes, and those that have are not currently enforcing these laws. This would undoubtedly affect service, efficiency, and cost. As a short line railroads, we anticipate that the impacts could be even more profound as crew size mandates could undermine existing practices necessary to provide safe, efficient, and economical service to local customers.

Further, the federal government occupies this space. Through numerous acts and actions, the federal government has established preemption on the issue of crew size. Given these facts, we respectfully urge you to oppose House Bill 2970.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Burns', is written over a thin horizontal line.

John Burns, President
Coos Bay Rail Line, Inc.