



City of Prineville

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CITY OF PRINEVILLE RAILWAY

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Joint Transportation Committee

HB 2970

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee

City of Prineville Railway (COP) is opposed to HB 2970 because of the financial restraints it will put on small short line railroads like ours.

The COP objective is to offer a full-service transportation option for Prineville, Crook County and the Central Oregon region. The railway offers a transportation hub that allows rural industries an opportunity to compete in the national and international marketplace. To date, the COP has over 50 small customers that create over 200 direct jobs in our rural community.

The COP operates on an \$800,000 annual budget with 3 full time employees handling just under 1,000 carloads. Although small, we manage to make a net profit that averages \$50,000 to \$75,000 per year. This meager profit maintains railway sustainability and asset maintenance that assures rail service to the small shippers in our rural area. Mandating two crew members in a locomotive would cost the COP \$75,000 per year in extra personnel. The extra expense would push the railway into negative operating and is unsustainable.

On behalf of the City of Prineville Railway, Please vote no on HB 2970

Thank You for your consideration.

Matt Wiederholt

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