

To: Representative Witt and members of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

From: Debra Mumm-Hill

West Linn resident along the Willamette River at mile maker 28.5

Committee Hearing: March 9, 2021 3:15 PM

I strongly support HB2555 and HB 2725. I have taken this position due to the massive erosion I have witnessed along the river bank between miles 28 – 32 over the past three years and have great cause for concern that another Union Pacific derailment is eminently in our future. Nine weeks ago, a Union Pacific train derailed on January 6, 2021, near mile marker 31. Fifteen cars tipped over sideways that day, spilling cargo alongside the track and into the river. Fortunately, these 15 cars were not carrying hazardous materials, but I believe we got lucky.

Union Pacific train track runs adjacent to the riverbank for 6 miles from mile marker 26.6 to 32.



Below is a view of the January 6, 2021 derailment from highway 99E in Canby.



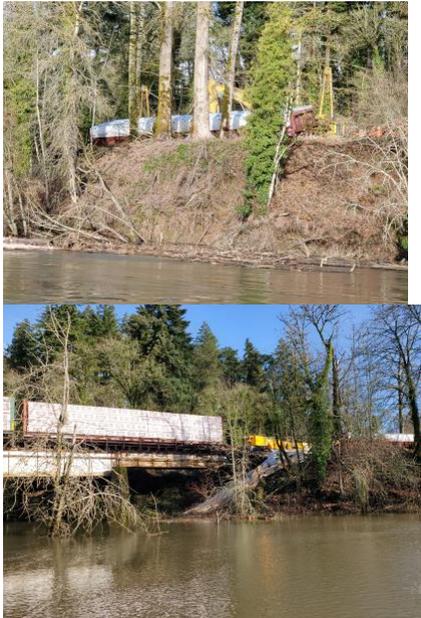
On May 16, 2018, Cherie Kennemer, Canby resident and homeowner on the river, contacted Cindy Roberts, Oregon contract lobbyist for Union Pacific. Ms. Kennemer stated her concerns regarding a slide on the tracks near mile marker 31.5, very close to where the January 6 derailment occurred. This photo depicted the slide area in May 2018, and the red line represents the railroad track. I am not a structural track engineer, but you can see the earth below the track is compromised.



The following photos show pictures of the January 6 derailment and prove how lucky we were the train cars that derailed were not transporting hazardous materials.



The following photo shows how the riverbank's integrity is critical to the integrity of the train tracks as the riverbank is the foundation for the track.



Chairman Witt and committee members, I respectfully ask that you consider how riverbank erosion caused by wake surfing is and will continue to affect critical infrastructure such as the train tracks along the Willamette River. The decision you make today regarding supporting HB2555 and HB2725 could most likely avert another derailment in the very soon that could be catastrophic not only to lives but to our beautiful waterways. A toxic spill due to a derailment into the Willamette River would indeed be tragic.

Chairman Witt and members of this committee I urge you to vote in favor of HB 2555 and 2575.
Thank you.

Debra Mumm-Hill
West Linn resident