

Submitter: Cindy Martin  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB723

I am the wife of a 47 year retired rail operating employee and a mother of a current 20 year rail employee.

How does one look at the safety of an industry they know nothing about? Most of the general public knows nothing of the rail industry until there is a critical derailment.

I would ask you for a moment to envision yourself operating a train locomotive which, alone, weighs 15-20 tons. Most importantly, keep in mind that the wheels of any car or locomotive on the train at any given time is making contact with the rail the size of a dime. You are pulling cars loaded with various goods. Some of those goods are hazardous and explosive. Your train is 2-3 miles long running up and down various grades of hills, curves, along rivers and thru populated areas. Remember, that wheel to rail contact is no bigger than a dime. Now after 10-12 hours on your shift you are starting to get fatigued and you might nod off for 15 seconds or, maybe, 15 minutes or more. You are by yourself. No one to talk to or keep you alert. No one to assist you if you should become ill. I believe most people would agree this would not be a safe environment.

I ask you to vote for SB723. Let's make sure we have, at least, a two man crew on our trains for the safety of my son, all rail employees and, of course, the general public.

With respect,  
Cindy Martin