

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you, Senators and Representatives, regarding SB723. I am not only writing as a citizen of the state of Oregon, but I am also writing as a wife of an Engineer. Have you had any dreams of your spouse going off the side of a cliff in a train or being stuck in a tunnel by themselves? Have you ever had to pray every day that they leave the house that they return home safely? I am guessing not. While most people sit cushioned in their office jobs, deciding the citizens of this state's destiny, these men and women risk their lives each day. Not passing this bill puts them into harm's way every single day that they walk out their front door. For what? Corporate Greed? To make a little bit of money for a corporation who has more than enough money.

There are many times that my husband goes to work with little or no sleep due to this messed up schedule that these conductors and engineers must keep. I know because when that phone rings, I wake up to make his lunch. The importance of this 2-man crew bill is essential to these railroad workers trying to make ends meet. It is hard enough to make sure that you get proper sleep, but they often go into dangerous territory. It is not only dangerous, but it is UNSAFE, in so many aspects. What happens if there is a serious accident? The conductors play a major role making sure that the proper authorities are called, and the proper paperwork is attended to. It is also crucial to have 2 men in the cab to keep each other awake, their hours of service are not like YOUR 9-5 jobs. Their hours of service are, they go when called. It does not matter if they haven't had any sleep. There are many instances that they hit a homeless person that is doped up on drugs, or one that is sleeping on the tracks where they are not supposed to be, or some kids playing chicken on the rails, not caring that the train is ringing their horn for them to get out of the way. Would you want to be alone in any of these freak accidents that you have no control over? I BET NOT!!

For five minutes put yourselves into their shoes, put yourself into their industry. Are you able to do that? I hope that you think long and hard about this bill I sure hope that you make the right choice and not only for the lives of these men and women who transport goods, hazardous materials, but also to help keep the very communities that you represent safe with safe practices like making the 2-PERSON crew a MUST to pass in the State of Oregon!!!

Sincerely,

With Great Despair

Delila Dawn Garrison