

Submitter: Brandon Takalo
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB723

I am a Locomotive Engineer and have been in the employ of Union Pacific Railroad for the last 19 years. In my time at the railroad they have never been able to keep dependable timely calls for our reporting to work. As such we are usually required to wait excessive amounts of time till we are called to go to work to start our 12 hour and sometimes longer shifts. As such we are usually up for an entire day waiting to get called to go to work. So by the time our call comes in we are already exhausted and then expected to produce timely and professional service. If limited to a single employee in the cab we would then be expected to perform this service with our the assistance of another person to help us stay awake and alert and attentive which is the Company's wording. Being up for 12+ hours before being expected to perform another 12 hours of work is unacceptable and frankly unsafe if expected to do such without the aid of another person. To add onto that we are not allowed minor distractions such as music which has been shown in scientific studies to aid brain function and help focus attention. Please vote against this bill unless you would like loaded trains with Chlorine Gas and Anhydrous Ammonia rolling down the main streets of your town with one single person who's likely been up to 20+ hours and nodding off with ko one to help keep them awake and aware of their surroundings. Thank you.