

Dear Surface Transportation Board Members Representatives Oberman, Fuchs, Schultz, Primus, and Hedlund,

Thank you. Thank you for making this an urgent meeting and listening to folks reiterate the words and thoughts my husband has spoken to me about PSR for the last few years. It is dangerous for the crew. It is tiring. It is frustrating. Trains are too long and too heavy to handle well and then crew is expected to take any fall back for problems, instead of where the blame belongs: the actual cargo amounts, lack of maintenance taking care of tracks that are constantly being made to move material in a way that is detrimental to it's form; Corridors and other dispatch can't find where to put long trains and get frustrated when crews want an answer because they are sitting on 20 thousand pounds of iron; Crews waiting for new work/wage contracts watch as their company makes billions of dollars, record profits off their work while even more frustratingly knowing the profit is going to shareholders, not employees and their families – as they wait two and a half years to see if they get their cost of living wage.

I'm so proud of my husband having a good paying blue-college job, but I see the future of this industry, so important to the economy and progress of the USA, becoming a billionaire's play toy and it worries me. As a family member, we understand our loved ones having wanky and goofy hours and we accept that. What we don't accept is dangerously long trips that tire and frustrate them. Trains that lack good maintenance and tracks that lack good care and changing benefits meant to only help CEOs and shareholders, not the employees who make it happen.

Representative Primus asked about training programs and as we were watching I believe we both felt this was a perfect example of what may happen in the future. Training doesn't just go to the mechanics of the train, it goes to the lingo – “deadheading, (wheels – train list), hoggers (engineers), dog-catch, highball” are just a few examples. Important to the overall well being of the atmosphere if training, but lacking in comparison to the needs of good customer service and employee relations that PSR has decimated in the last few years.

I hope this letter reaches you. If you have been able to read it, thank you. Infrastructure, in general, is of great importance to me in this country. Its workers should be of great importance to all of us. Have a blessed day and blessed decision making.

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