



GENERAL TEAMSTERS LOCAL 959 STATE OF ALASKA

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Rick Boyles, Secretary-Treasurer

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March 8, 2018

Honorable Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Chair House State Affairs
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HJR 38-Conveyances to the Alaska Railroad Corporation under the Alaska Railroad Transfer Act

Representative Kreiss-Tomkins and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Teamster members that we represent at the Alaska Railroad and our thousands of Teamsters around the State, we want to go on record to oppose HJR 38, a resolution that relates to certain conveyances to the Alaska Railroad under the Alaska Railroad Transfer Act of 1982. While the legal arguments should be left to the attorneys, there should be concern regarding the safety of not only our members who perform various maintenance work, but also the impact on the public. This resolution as written can threaten and or undermine protections offered by the exclusive Right-of-way (ROW). This would create uncertainty and potential financial liability, if the Railroad is not able to fully control access to the ROW. The buffer is very important to the successful operation of the trains at higher speeds when transporting not only passengers, but cargo throughout the state as well. To reduce the effectiveness of the trains by reducing speed would have a huge negative impact on the Railroads ability to meet delivery times, forcing many to look at other means of transportation. To us, this equates to loss of jobs for our members.

Over the last several years the Railroad has seen some hefty cuts in revenue, forcing them to look at overall services including reorganization of the workforce. Additional impacts such as the elimination of the exclusive control of ROW could further reduce revenues for the Railroad and create a very unsafe situation for the public and our members. Safety is important. Control of the ROW's is crucial to the viability and safety of the Railroad operation and the employees. It also assures protection of all of the public.

Additionally, as mentioned above, it seems the issues in the Resolution should be points of debate in the courts, not the legislators. If this resolution passes and one side or the other gets a decision unfavorable to their interest, the matter will ultimately end up in court.

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As such, we ask that with further consideration of HJR 38, that you and members of your committee vote NO. Your time and consideration of this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 959

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Boyles".

Rick Boyles
Secretary-Treasurer

c: Representative LeDoux Vice Chair
Representative(s) Tuck, Wool, Birch, D. Johnson, G. Knopp