

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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BILL STOLTZE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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Sponsor Statement
for
House Bill 313
by Representative Bill Stoltze

The passage of HB 313 would transfer an equitable share of the liability for annual costs of maintenance and repairs at state highway/rail road intersections to the Alaska Railroad Corporation.

Currently, the State of Alaska pays a \$266 monthly maintenance fee to the Alaska Railroad for each and every road-railroad crossing, totaling \$212,287 annually. In addition, DOT&PF is charged for any repairs that occur within the right-of-way.

This piece of legislation keeps in place the monthly crossing fees for maintenance but prohibits the Alaska Railroad Corporation from additionally charging the state or municipalities for additional repair costs.

The Alaska Railroad is a for profit corporation and as such they should include in their rates the costs of maintenance. HB 313 justly allocates these expenses to the appropriate entity by preserving the monthly crossing fees, but exempting the state and municipalities from paying twice for railroad upgrades and repairs.

I appreciate your consideration of this important legislation.

DWS/mh/ja

DISTRICT 16

BIRCHWOOD • BUTTE • CHUGIAK • EKLUTNA • FAIRVIEW LOOP
KNIK RIVER ROAD • LAZY MOUNTAIN • PALMER • PETERS CREEK