

Dear Kansas Legislators, March 2nd 2023

I am writing this because I am tired of the inconveniences Union Pacific Railroad has caused me with their careless ways. I support SB271. On many occasions, I have been forced to climb over a stopped train and walk home. The most recent time, I had to walk half a mile home while the temperature was well below zero. I realize climbing the train is a dangerous thing to do, but I have been left with no other choice. This has happened at least a dozen times in the past couple of years.

Union Pacific has caused me to be late for work on numerous occasions, costing me lost wages. I am thankful that I have an understanding boss that knows the battle I fight with the railroad. Otherwise, I may have lost my job. Stopped trains have kept me blocked in or out of my house for anywhere from an hour or two and up to 8 hours.

The most ridiculous of the instances happened about three years ago. Union Pacific was doing maintenance work on the railroad bedrock, and the crossing, which is the only in or out, tore out for three days. 3 DAYS! I had no access to my house and was forced to walk half a mile in and out. I don't see how UP can legally deny me access to my home.

My biggest fear with the problems that Union Pacific causes is that someday I will have a house fire or need medical help, and I won't be able to get the help I need because of a stopped or broke down or over-length train.

I have tried to contact Union Pacific myself on multiple occasions trying to get this to stop. I have contacted the local sheriff's dept as well as county commissioners. They have been met with the same careless attitude from UP that I have.

I ask of you. Please do what you can to stop Union Pacific and its careless ways.
THANK YOU

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