

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street Southwest
Washington D.C. 20423

RE: EP 770 Rail Service Hearing

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Dear Board members,

I'm a locomotive engineer with almost 8 years of seniority. When I hired out I took a great deal of pride in my work and my ability to do it well and without fault. In my short time in the industry the job has become an almost unbearable strain on my mental health and the health of my family as a unit. The reasons are plain to see to anyone working train service no matter the carrier. Mine has just been the lone holdout till recently. The recent years have seen the Industry downsize its workforce by a third while attempting to handle the same, and sometimes higher amounts of traffic, all in the name of corporate greed. Me and my coworkers constantly see record profits being posted year after year all while fighting to get thirty dollar claims paid. I think that us in the industry and a lot of the workforce in the country in general has lost hope that anything will ever get better. I see my family less and less as BNSF tightens its attendance policies on its on call employees. Where is hope going to come from? Inflation is up over seven percent. We'll most likely see a raise of maybe half that whenever a contract eventually goes through and that's with Union representation. We've been barred from exercising any kind of self help that would give us any kind of leverage in our situation and our company knows this. These are the results of corporations running rampant with little oversight. Great for the shareholders at the expense of putting employees through the meat grinder.

I apologize for rambling on. I could go on all day. I've spent the last two years as an "essential employee" through an unprecedented "supply chain crisis" and I'm tired. I'm sure the company is going to use this opportunity to cry for less oversight and the ability to use one man crews to help deal with their manpower shortage that they've created for themselves. So I ask that we not let these corporations throw the blame where it doesn't belong and let them admit that this is a problem that they've created and let them fix it in ways that are showing some semblance of respect for the people it employs and services. The whole industry saw E. Hunter Harrison get off without as much as a slap on the wrist for his problems with CSX after its implementation of PSR. I plead with you to not let the industry as a whole off that easily for doing the exact same thing