

Wisconsin Railroad Committee

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BNSF
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To: Members of the Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance
From: The Wisconsin Railroad Committee
Re: Staffing – The Office of the Commissioner of Railroads
Date: November, 2013

The Wisconsin Railroads have a long history of supporting the work of the Commissioner of Railroads (OCR). In fact, railroads pay the entire cost of staff and administration of the rail crossing safety work done there.

You have (or will have) a technical correction before the JFC under passive review regarding support of staffing at OCR at historical levels. OCR is a very small (and efficient) agency. Their current staffing appropriation reflects a recent situation where retirement leaves the agency down from their usual staffing. We need to assure that the support is available to protect the rail safety effort.

Note, that **no state money is involved** in this request. The appropriation is PR from an assessment on railroad revenues. It is in everyone's interest to protect adequate support of this rail safety team at OCR.

We respectfully request that this item be approved, so that this necessary safety program continues.

Represented by Samuel O. Gratz