



Senate of Pennsylvania

MEMO

TO: All Senators

DATE: January 19, 2011

FROM: Senator Lisa M. Boseola

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Legislation

In the near future, I plan to reintroduce legislation amending Title 66 to require railroads under the jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commission to place whistle post signs exactly one-quarter of a mile away from all railroad crossings.

According to the Federal Railroad Administration, about 3,000 railroad crossing accidents have taken place in the last 10 years with an annual rate of 1,000 deaths.

In some cases, railroad crossing accidents occur because the railroad company fails to safely maintain the area around the train tracks. In other cases, devices that are designed to alert drivers that a train is coming—such as crossing gates, bells or lights—are either broken or not installed where they should be.

Whistle posts notify engineers or locomotive operators to blow a whistle or ring a bell as the locomotive approaches the crossing as a warning to the members of the public.

This is a reintroduction of Senate Bills 871 from the previous legislative session. Co-sponsors included Senators Erikson, Washington, Ferlo, Tartaglione, Rafferty, Ward and Fontana.

If you are interested in joining me as a co-sponsor of this important legislation, please contact Julie Carraghan in my office at 787-4236 or by e-mail at jcarraghan@pasenate.com.