

Dear Representative 3/2/23

My Name is Austin Cooper I live at 2101 Beltline, Newton, KS. I have lived here my whole life. I'm writing to you tonight because I **support SB271** I have exhausted my options with the City Council in fact I was told they could do nothing about it that it was a state issue and to contact my representatives.

The issue is blocked crossings in town. I am late for work more and more lately, my kids have missed being to school on time I've been stuck at crossings all my life here in fact if your from here you know its best to leave sometimes an HOUR early so you don't get locked in by a train. It's just getting worse though. Sometimes the train with two semi-truck containers will block the entire town for at least 30 minutes if not longer!

But here's what's different this is happening more and more and being from here I can tell you the train is longer than it has ever been. Last week I saw an ambulance and all I could think was "I have no idea what's going on but they ain't gonna make it" I'm lucky that so far I have not had to wait for a fire truck or ambulance to get to me in town but I fear the day it does.

make the trains shorter or make it so they have to stop outside of town. I don't know what the answer is but I do know it's a problem getting bigger.

I know we need railroads and I appreciate that but there has to be some common-sense safety laws put in place to protect the community and to make people able to get to where they need to go for work play and public safety.

I'm asking you to please look into this issue and do something about it. I did a google map and plotted what I'm talking about to maybe help visualize it. I know the 1st Street, Main Street and Broadway crossings have been blocked all at once. Please look at the map.

Sincerely

Austin Cooper
2101 Beltline, Newton, KS

