

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, 148 crashes occurred at highway-rail and pedestrian-rail grade crossings, resulting in 45 personal injuries and 30 fatalities in the State of Illinois during 2022; and,

WHEREAS, 62 trespassing incidents occurred in the State of Illinois during 2022, resulting in the deaths of 39 pedestrians and the injuries of 23 others while trespassing on railroad property rights of way; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois ranks third in the nation in grade crossing fatalities and fourth in trespass fatalities for 2022; and,

WHEREAS, more than 81 percent of crashes at public grade crossings in Illinois occur where active warning devices exist; and,

WHEREAS, educating and informing the public about rail safety, reminding the public that railroad rights of way are private property, enhancing public awareness of the dangers associated with highway-rail and pedestrian-rail grade crossings, ensuring pedestrians and motorists are looking and listening while near railways, and obeying established traffic laws will reduce the number of fatalities and injuries to Illinoisans; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP), partnered with CN Railway, and Metra Railroad and was supported by the American Automobile Association, Illinois Commerce Commission, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Operation Lifesaver, Illinois State Police, Illinois Tollway Authority, Illinois Sheriff's Association, Illinois Secretary of State, Illinois Truck Enforcement Association, Illinois High School and College Driver's Education Association, Illinois Pupil Transportation Advisory Committee, DuPage Rail Safety Council, and local and railroad law enforcement, first responders and area railroad companies commit to partnering together in an effort to educate Illinois residents on all aspects of railroad safety, to enforce applicable state laws, and to support Illinois Rail Safety Week; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Commerce Commission continues to develop partnerships designed to create a strong, supportive rail safety culture throughout Illinois to reduce the number of railroad-related incidents;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim September 18-24, 2023, as Illinois Rail Safety Week, and encourage all residents to recognize the importance of rail safety education.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,

this EIGHTH day of SEPTEMBER, in

the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and

TWENTY-THREE, and of the State of Illinois,

two hundred and FIFTH.



Alexi Giannouch
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR