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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Railroad Bill Introduced

Under current law, pedestrians only have the ability to cross railroad tracks at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings. For individuals that reside near tracks as well as the many sportsmen and women across our state are prohibited from crossing unless they are specifically at the designated pedestrian or roadway crossings.

In many cases across Wisconsin these designated crossings may be miles away. This particular situation creates a problem when you are hunting on public land and you are retrieving animals. In addition to hunting, ice fishing is one of our pastimes here in Wisconsin where individuals are trying to get to the water to fish, but are not able to do so due to tracks being between the road and the water.

Senator Bernier, Representative Oldenburg, and I released LRB 5428/2 recently relating to this issue. Our bill would allow individuals to cross without being ticketed or fined. This is especially important for our sportsmen and women to safely be able to cross railroad tracks legally and to protect our Wisconsin heritage. This bill does not support individuals walking on the tracks, just to be able to cross them to get to the other side.

The number of individuals hit by crossing a railroad track is very minimal compared to the number of pedestrians that are hit by automobiles. It is important to note this because there are “designated crossings” for pedestrians to safely cross the street. Pedestrians across our state and nationwide are crossing over these tracks not at designated crossing areas that are just not caught doing so.

We are looking forward to this piece of legislation moving forward to allow the legal and safe crossing of railroad tracks without receiving a ticket or fine for trespassing.

As always, feel free to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns.

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