

Contact Your Congressional Leaders About Limbo Time During Easter Recess

When they return from their Easter recess later this month, Congress will consider rail safety legislation. The BLET and its allies in Rail Labor are urging Congress to include a provision to eliminate limbo time in the bill.

Limbo time is one factor that aggravates fatigue. The industry's manipulation of the Hours of Service Act by leaving crews stranded for unconscionable lengths of time began with the Supreme Court's 1996 "limbo time" decision.

The lesson that we have learned from the industry's abuse of limbo time is this: If you give the industry a carrot, the railroads will chomp it down without a second thought," BLET Vice President and National Legislative Representative John Tolman said. "This court decision needs to be changed by Congress, and we need to insist that they change it immediately."

In order to eliminate limbo time, your member of Congress must demand an end to limbo time be included in rail safety legislation. For the next two weeks, your member of Congress will be in your home district for the Easter recess. The BLET is asking all members and their families to contact their members of Congress during these two weeks to urge them to include the limbo time provision in the bill.

"For the past year and a half, we have been collecting data from BLET field officers concerning excessively long work tours," BLET National President Don Hahs said. "The data provided to us has been gathered from railroad records, and is stunning."

Due to the Easter recess, members will likely be in their home districts. Now is the time to visit, call, email or write your Member of

Congress and tell them that with any rail safety bill you want limbo time eliminated. BLET members can give their Representatives first hand knowledge about the problem of limbo time as well as other safety related issues.

BLET members can find their Representative by going to:

<http://www.bletdc.org/action/congress/>

It is these first hand accounts provided by BLET members that can be most effective in persuading Congress to act on limbo time, according to BLET Vice President and National Legislative Representative John Tolman.

"Members of Congress are elected by the people," Vice President Tolman said. "They respond to their constituents' stories. BLET members are the best advocates for their position."

John P. Tolman, VP/National Legislative Representative