

Proclamation
National Rail Safety Week

WHEREAS *Rail Safety Week* is to be held across the U.S. from September 18 to 24, 2023;

WHEREAS, 2,194 rail grade crossing collisions resulted in 803 personal injuries and were responsible for 274 fatalities in the United States during 2022; and

WHEREAS, 1,208 pedestrian trespassing casualties have occurred in the United States resulting in 658 pedestrians being killed and another 550 injured while trespassing on railroad property rights of way during 2022; and

WHEREAS, educating and informing the public about rail safety (reminding the public that railroad right of ways are private property, enhancing public awareness of the dangers associated with highway rail grade crossings, ensuring pedestrians and motorists are looking and listening while near railways, and obeying established traffic laws) will reduce the number of avoidable fatalities and injuries caused by incidents involving trains and citizens; and

WHEREAS, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Operation Lifesaver, United States Department of Transportation, and all local, state, county, and railroad law enforcement officers, first responders, and railroad corporations commit to partnering together in an effort to educate at a national level all aspects of railroad safety, to enforce applicable laws in support of National Rail Safety Week;

THEREFORE, I, Brad Bleichner, Mayor of Independence, Iowa, do hereby attest my full support proclaiming September 18th to 24th, 2023, National Rail Safety Week and I encourage all citizens to recognize the importance of rail safety education.

Brad Bleichner
Mayor
Independence, Iowa

