

As a new resident to an area where a busy railroad crossing exists, I have become interested in the recent publicity regarding the new rules proposed for the use of locomotive horns. At this time I am living in an apartment directly next to a rail crossing, while I wait for a new home to be built a short distance away from my current location. I am alarmed at the blatant overuse of train whistles by engineers. I have witnessed a train passing by at a rate of speed slower than I could walk, with the horn sounding continually with no break for more than 2 minutes. Occasions of excessive use of the horns occur with nearly every train that passes by. Rules may be in place to direct engineers in sounding the horn, but who actually enforces these directives? Public safety is of great importance. But the quality of life for those residing at or near the crossings is also important. The community I reside in will not be able to afford the expensive new equipment you would require them to install for supplementary safety measures should they try to limit the amount of whistle blowing. This ruling should make some provisions to limit the amount of horn use. The horns are noise pollution that interrupt phone calls, sleeping children and adults. I am also concerned for the future value of my home. Perhaps a middle ground could be found that would take into account both public safety and public sanity.