

Submitter: Robert Miller
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB723

Dear Mr Chairman / Madam Chairwoman.

Thankyou for this opportunity to voice my opinion on Bill SB#723.

As a career railroad professional, I am grateful to have the opportunity to voice wholeheartedly support for this common sense bill. As a career railroader, I cannot stress how important this bill is to public safety. While moving goods via rail has its advantages, it is not without mishaps, and unforeseen problems. Having two people to mitigate these unknowns, is crucial to public safety. Amagine living in a small town divided by a rail line, between your home and the local Hospital. One of your loved ones is having a health crisis and needs immediate attention. Time is of essence, and you encounter a train stopped over the only road crossing between you and the hospital for miles. Luckily, every road crossing has a sign with a phone number to report an event at a railroad crossing. You call the # and get a live person in the know, with why the train is stopped. It is a direct link to the train dispatcher, who can contact the crew (2 people) on the train. The dispatcher notifies the crew, that there is a medical emergency and the railroad crossing needs to be separated so that the emergency vehicles can get through. This cannot be completed without two people, but, because two people are required, this can happen in a timely manner, because the required amount of professionals are on site.

Now amagine without two professionals on site.

You call the # on the sign, you get a dispatcher, and they inform you, they don't have anyone on site to help, but someone is on the way. Crucial minutes tick away, and no one comes, because you are unaware, the railroads solution to only having one person on the train, is to have a roving helper, who could be 40,50, but most likely 100 miles away, to be able to respond to an event.

This is just one senerio involving on or two precious lives. Amagine a train derailment, carrying tank cars full of flamible LPG contents or worse yet, poison inhalation chemicals like chlorine and there is a derailment. With (2) rail professionals on site, being able isolate the rest of the train from the problem, could make the difference between a problem with 1 or 2 cars, versus a catastrophe that would affect an entire town.

This bill just makes sense, and has the ability to make a very meaningful impact to our local communities. With the stroke on a pen, you have the power keep your/our communities safe!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Robert Miller S.M.A.R.T union member