

Submitter: Jeffrey Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB723

Hello,

I am a conductor with Union Pacific. A two man train crew is absolutely necessary for safety.

First off, we work an aggressive work schedule. We work a maximum of 12 hours with a minimum of 10 hours rest. We are on call 24/7 so the phone goes off at all hours of the day and night. Sometimes the phone goes off at 2 am and you're just tired. A second person in the cab helps keep you awake and alert.

Second, the safety of those around the train. I've had several close calls with trespassers, sometimes children, where one crew member saw them but the other didn't until much later. I can point them out to the engineer, or if it is close enough I do have an emergency brake handle.

There is also an incident last summer where my train caught on fire. We went by a train in a siding when they informed us that we had a shipping container on fire. Once we got the train stopped I was able to grab the paperwork, find the burning container, and verify that it was not carrying hazardous materials. Since my hand held radio couldn't reach the radio tower to talk to dispatch, and coordinate with the local fire department to set up a place to meet. I was able to ride on the side of the train and make sure we didn't set the forest on fire as we went through, and able to tell the engineer exactly where to stop the train so the fire fighters could get to it.

Thank you for considering what I have to say,
J. Johnson.