

Submitter:

Michael Henderson

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB723

I am writing for my strong support Senate bill 723. This legislation is vitally important to the Safety of not only train crews, but also to every individual of the public.

As a career railroader of 34 years, I can knowledgeably state that a two person crew in the controlling locomotive is crucial to the Safety transport of potentially dangerous products throughout the state of Oregon.

The job duties of a locomotive engineer are vast. The job duties of a conductor are extensive as well. One person cannot navigate all the tasks that are needed to have ones full attention while a train is in motion. Crew fatigue is already an issue with the unpredictable schedule of work hours and call times that current train crews have to adhere to. All the workload that would be required is not attainable for one person.

If a medical emergency happens on the train with only one man, there will be no one there to take appropriate action. No one to stop the train, administer first aid or even call 911.

In regards to the public, if there was an emergency that involved the train, there would also not be anyone there to take action. No one to meet with first responders to inform them of the situation. No one to immediately share hazardous materials information with fire personnel. No one to separate the train if it is blocking access at a public road crossing needed by medical personnel.

A one person crew majorly contradicts the idea that Safety is of utmost importance. Two person crews on every train in Oregon is essential to keeping Safety a priority.

Voting yes ensures that.

Thank you.