

Submitter: Corey Kirk
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB723

As a 20 year railroad employee I am for 2 man crews. Both the conductors and engineers must be certified with a knowledge test and a health screening completed every couple of years. This is knowledge and experience that doesn't cost our taxpayers anything and no technology can replace, so why wouldn't we demand it. With trains getting longer (sometimes up to three miles) and equipment maintenance being cut, breakdowns of engines and other equipment are increasing and will continue to increase.

Even if I didn't work for the railroad, I would want 2 persons in the cab. As a homeowner in Oregon that resides near railroad tracks, I have been blocked by trains for an extended amount of time, multiple times. The only way in and out of my neighborhood is across the tracks. If a train breaks down then I have to wait until it is fixed before it can move and then I can leave or return home. Hopefully there are no medical emergencies during this time. This time that the trains are blocking my neighborhood, other neighborhoods, public streets, police, fire and ambulance routes, all over the state, will definitely increase without a second employee in the cab. Thank you