

Submitter: Alyssa Beasley
On Behalf Of: SB 273
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB723

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Alyssa Beasley, and I'm writing in support of SB723, which would require two-person crews on freight trains in Oregon.

I'm not a railroad worker, but I care deeply about the safety of our railroads and the communities they run through. Having two people in the cab is critical—especially when engineers are dealing with fatigue during long, irregular shifts. A second crew member can step in to help keep the train operating safely, respond to emergencies, and catch potential problems before they escalate. Expecting one person to manage it all is dangerous.

As a resident near the Eugene rail yard, I regularly see these massive trains pass through our area. It's unsettling to think that some of them might only have one person on board. This isn't just a safety issue for workers—it's a public safety concern for everyone living near these tracks.

I'm also concerned about the delays caused by blocked crossings when trains stop. These delays can prevent emergency vehicles from passing and create major disruptions for people trying to get to work, school, or medical appointments. With two crew members, situations like this can be handled more quickly and safely.

Please support SB723 and ensure Oregon maintains high safety standards on its railroads. Two-person crews are common sense—and they save lives.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Beasley
Resident near the Eugene Rail Yard