

03/01/2019
Mark George
502 Palmer Ave
La Grande OR, 97850

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing this letter to tell you the importance for maintaining two people in the cabs of all freight trains in the state of Oregon. It is a major safety concern for myself and my coworkers. Conductors and engineers work as a team to keep each other safe. The railroad is a 24-hour operation and it is not uncommon for train crews to be awake for 24 hours before we are relieved from duty. This is due to the fact that the railroad supplied line-ups are not accurate and can be off up to 8 hours or more from when they will show you that you will be required to report for work. This leaves people in limbo for when they should attempt to get rest before work. Having a two-person crew keeps people awake and attentive to the tasks at hand. The railroad is building heavier and longer trains making the job even more dangerous than in the past, and the move to precision railroading the railroads are getting rid of long standing safety rules that have prevented many injuries making it even more important to have to sets of eyes and minds to prevent injuries to our fellow co-workers and the public.

In the spring of 2016, I was working with a conductor named Tylor Morasci. We were called on a train that was carrying loads of railroad maintenance equipment. During the trip Tylor was complaining to me that he had not been doing very well. He had been suffering horrible headaches and his doctor had prescribed him medicine, but he had forgot it at home. During our trip his headache went from bad to worse to unbearable at about 8 hours into our trip. The situation in the locomotive went from a normal day and progressed to an emergency. I contacted the dispatcher and told him our situation. After a while we were sent a van to take us back to our home terminal. Tylor was in bad shape and after helping him off the locomotive and into the van Tylor told me he did not think he would make it home and needed to go to a hospital. We rushed Tylor to the nearest hospital, and they told Tylor that he had a mass on his brain. They operated on him the next day after he was transferred to another hospital. During our trip I don't know what would have happened to Tylor if I would not have been there to help get him to a hospital. He was suffering from glioblastoma, a horrible type of brain cancer that ultimately ended up being fatal to my friend. He went from thinking very clearly during our trip to being in such pain that he could hardly walk or open his eyes. If Tylor had been the lone person on that train horrible things could have occurred, not only for himself but the public.

There are many reasons to keep two people in the cab of locomotive freight trains. The biggest reason is for the safety of the public and the train crews. The railroads will only give you one reason to move to one-person train crews and that is profits for the corporations. Human lives are worth more than more corporate greed.

Mark George

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark George". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Locomotive Engineer La Grande, OR