

From: [Scott Palmer](#)
To: [JCT Exhibits](#)
Subject: HB 2970
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House bill 2970, which would require two persons on all freight trains, isn't a bill about jobs; it's a bill about safety.

Train crews are the first responders to any accident or derailment they are involved with. The first reports are generated by the crew as the conductor performs a walking inspection of the train. Any tank car venting to the atmosphere or spilling chemicals into a waterway is rapidly reported and hazardous materials identified.

Vehicles involved in collisions with trains are located in the same fashion and the conductor provides assistance until emergency responders arrive.

Federal regulations require the Engineer to stay on the locomotive when the train is moving so two persons are imperative to the operation when an emergency exists.

To allow railroads to remove the conductor means serious delays while someone is dispatched from the railroad's crew base and drives to the scene. In rush hour or in a snow or ice storm, or in an inaccessible area, that response could take hours.

Time is of the essence when dealing with an emergency.

I support HB 2970.

Scott Palmer
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