

Submitter: Daniel Bonfield
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB723

Hello

My name is Daniel J. Bonfield, I am a 17 year employee of the Union Pacific Railroad Company. I write today in support of this bill, Two crew members are need for safe and efficient movement of trains for several reasons. One being we are often in isolated areas where a Conductor and Engineer are the only help that's coming in the immediate circumstances when something goes wrong, it takes hours for other help to arrive if they can even get to where crews are due to terrain restrictions. Another reason is employee safety, we are often compared to truck drivers but that is a bad comparison as we are often in control of trains in excess of 8,000 feet in length carrying highly flammable and poisonous materials in large quantities. We work unscheduled hours on call and are often poorly rested, our equipment is poorly maintained if at all and subject to breakdown. If one of the crew members has a medical emergency there needs to be a second person there to safely stop the train and get medical assistance to us if possible. At one time there were 5 crew members on every train, I think we can all agree that with today's technology that's excessive but two (2) crew members seems like a minimum number for safe efficient movement of trains as in airplanes a second set of eyes and ears is cheap insurance to protect the health and welfare of employees and the Public.

I thank you for the opportunity to express my support for two (2) person crews on all trains in Oregon and beyond.

Respectfully

Daniel J. Bonfield
Eugene Oregon.