

Submitter: Harley Ahner
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB723

I like many of my brothers and sisters on the railroad have been saved countless times by having an extra set of eyes and ears on train problems. In the 20+ years that I have been on trains I have seen derailments avoided, fires stopped, collisions and numerous civilian casualties or injuries. These were avoided because more than one person was actively engaged in being mindful of what was happening around us. There are many things on a train to stretch your attention. Monitoring speed, people near the tracks, track concerns, other trains, multiple gauges, how the train traverses the territory it is currently on, and the rested status of your fellow employee. We work in a field where it is not uncommon to receive little to no notice of when a work shift may occur do to many factors inside of the railroad and in our personal lives. Having that second or sometimes third person is VITAL to our ability to service our community safely and make it home to our loved ones at the end of every roundtrip. Thank you