

Submitter: Michael Mitchell
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB723

Members of the Committee I write this message in support of SB723. I ask that you simply read and really digest the collected testimonial's that are in support of this bill. These are very intelligent testimonial's filled with common sense truth. Taking a common sense approach it should go without saying that two people in the cab of a freight train locomotive consist that contains any type of threat to the general public should be State Law. Anything less than a passing of this bill will be the foothold Railroad Carriers need to eventually beta test fully autonomous train consist. It may seem far fetched but nevertheless it is the truth. This bill is the discussion of their first argument. Their first argument is that the Conductor is no longer needed and there isn't creditable data to prove having a Conductor in the cab is any safer than not having one. Once the Conductor's role is eliminated their second argument will be that having the Engineer inside the locomotive cab is not conducive to the company expanding and having the ability to compete from growing technology in the rail industry. Soon after you will have fully autonomous freight trains traveling through your community. The reality is that you may be alive to see a freight train loaded with millions of pounds of steel, wood, plastics and Hazardous Inhalation Poisons travel through Oregon State being controlled remotely from a command center in another State. That technology already exist. The Railroad Carriers ultimate goal is to reduce labor below a predetermined matrix and go fully autonomous down the Railroad Tracks as soon as feasibly possible. The passing and or failing of this bill is conducive to those goals. Members of the general public are counting on you to vote wisely and to keep them safe.
Thank you.