

Submitter: Kurt Christensen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB723

As a freight rail conductor, I have witnessed the need for a two-person crew in dealing with fatigue issues, with routine operations and with emergency situations. Wayside fires, locomotive & train failures, track failures, track washouts, deep snow, grade and territory issues, and other regular occurrences all require an employee in the cab of the locomotive (to move the train) and a ground employee (to direct this movement) to correct the situation. From separating a hazardous material train from the portion that was on fire to prevent further issue to separating the train at a grade crossing to allow first responders, school busses, and the public to cross, these real-world issues require two people on board the train and are only promptly remedied with the second crew member on board the train. Thank you.