

Submitter: Josh Johansen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB723

For those who care, I have been a railroad employee for 18+ years who has seen plenty of changes. The idea of not having 2 individuals in the locomotive cab is such an unthinkable concept. For starters, there is the safety aspect of two employees out on stretches of rail with limited access for the possibility of a medical emergency. The absence of 1 crew member most definitely could be life or death. Next is putting the public at risk, 2 sets of eyes is a far better option to a single set. Our trains carry some very dangerous chemicals that the public knows very little about. Having 2 professionals looking out for the public is a safety aspect that everyone should appreciate. The railroad has been cutting employees off of train crews for years in the name of profit, claiming safety standards are higher. I know if I were to walk onto an airplane for a trip and saw only 1 pilot I would have many questions and most definitely would be asking how someone thought this was a good idea for safety. Our trains and railroad tracks go through many of the communities of the state of Oregon, lets not put these communities at risk for the sake of corporate profits and greed.