

Measure, Appointment, or Topic: SB723

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong belief in the importance of having two people on trains. This is a critical safety measure that benefits both the workers in the rail industry and the public. There are several key reasons why a two-person crew is essential:

1. Safety Redundancy

A two-person crew provides an essential safety backup. If one crew member becomes incapacitated due to illness, injury, or fatigue, the second crew member ensures that operations continue safely. This redundancy is significant in managing complex or hazardous situations.

2. Emergency Response

Having two crew members enables a quicker, more coordinated response in an emergency, such as a derailment, medical emergency, or equipment malfunction. While one crew member focuses on maintaining control of the train and ensuring safety, the other can attend to the emergency, helping mitigate potential damage.

3. Fatigue Prevention

Operating a train is an incredibly demanding task that requires constant focus and attention. Having a second crew member significantly reduces the risk of fatigue-related errors, a major safety concern. When a single operator is responsible for everything, fatigue can impair judgment and slow reaction time, ultimately increasing the risk of accidents.

4. Operational Efficiency

With modern freight trains' increasing length—sometimes exceeding two miles—operational challenges have grown. Suppose a train needs to be disconnected and repositioned due to equipment failure. In that case, a single crew member must perform multiple time-consuming steps alone, which may obstruct the track and delay operations. A second crew member is essential to streamline these tasks and improve efficiency.

5. Public Safety

Finally, the safety of the public is paramount. Long freight trains, especially those carrying hazardous materials, are potentially dangerous to communities. A two-person crew offers additional oversight, reducing the likelihood of accidents and improving overall public safety.

For all these reasons, I firmly believe that having two crew members on board is not only common sense but a necessary measure to safeguard workers, the public, and the efficiency of the rail system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Julia Baldwin