

Submitter: Clint Greenwood

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB723

I am in support of this legislation as it not only protects jobs for Oregonians but improves the safety of our communities as well. In my experience over the last twelve years there have been many instances where a second person in the cab greatly improved the outcome of situations that could have been catastrophic. For example the design of locomotive cabs creates blind spots for the engineer. There have been numerous occasions where I have been able to see a potential problem from my side of the cab that the engineer could not and visa versa. Because of the second person we were able to make a quick decision and avoid potential collisions with pedestrians and vehicles. Technology is ever evolving however a computer is not going, to identify a pedestrian or vehicle on the tracks. The computer is also not going to repair a mechanical failure within the train. In the event of a mechanical issue the conductor is able to locate, identify and mitigate the problem in a timely manner. Imagine being on your way to work or pick up your children from school and you're stuck at a crossing due to a train that has broken down. Would you rather have a conductor already handling the situation or potentially have to wait hours for a third employee to drive from another location potentially a couple hundred miles away? Two employees in the cab are vital for the safety of the public and the efficient movement of the train itself.