

Contact Congress in support of two-person crew bill

All railroad workers are urged to contact members of the House of Representatives about co-sponsoring The Safe Freight Act of 2017 (H.R. 233), a bill that would mandate two-person train crews on freight trains - a certified locomotive engineer and a certified conductor. Both unions of the operating crafts - the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen (BLET) and the Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Rail Air and Transportation Workers (SMART TD) - are equally supportive of the bill and the concept of a minimum two-person train crew.

Introduced by Congressman Don Young (R-Alaska) in early January, The Safe Freight Act mandates that: "no freight train or light engine used in connection with the movement of freight may be operated unless it has a crew consisting of at least 2 individuals, one of whom is certified under regulations promulgated by the Federal Railroad Administration as a locomotive engineer pursuant to section 20135, and the other of whom is certified under regulations promulgated by the Federal Railroad Administration as a conductor pursuant to section 20163." The current two-person crew bill is basically the same legislation that has been previously introduced to the Congress in recent years.

Railroad workers should call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at [\(202\) 224-3121](tel:2022243121), and ask to speak with the House of Representative member from your Congressional District. Contact information can also be found here: <http://www.house.gov/htbin/findrep>.

The Presidents of the BLET and SMART once again reiterated their total support for two member crews. BLET National President Dennis R. Pierce stated: "The nationwide fight over operating crew size is far from over, and we are urging all BLET and SMART TD Brothers and Sisters to contact their member of Congress on this extremely important issue. In spite of what the railroads might say, technology has not advanced to the point that it can replace the eyes and ears of railroad professionals. Please do your part as the job you save may be your own."

SMART TD President John Previsich pledged that: "We will continue our tireless and years-long work of supporting a minimum of two crew members on all trains. An overwhelming majority of Americans from both political parties support this measure: the American people have spoken and are in favor of this bill. It is past time for our government to get on track, do the right thing and support H.R. 233. This measure is a matter of domestic safety and security for railroad workers, passengers, our cities, towns and our entire nation,"

While we understand that this is but one theatre in which we fight for two person crews, all railroad workers should get behind this legislative effort. Call your Congressman today!!

Theater