



February 13, 2023

Senator Scott Dibble, Chair
Senate Transportation Committee
3107 Minnesota Senat Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Honorable Senator Dibble and Transportation Committee Members:

We're writing to inform you the Minnesota AFL-CIO supports the two-person train crew legislation, SF1417 (McEwen). Passage of SF1417 will protect public safety.

Growing train length and significantly more flammable and/or hazardous substances carried on cars is increasing safety concerns. For the safety of communities and their residents, it is imperative that trains have two crewmembers.

In the unfortunate event of rail crossing collisions or train derailments involving hazardous materials, it is vital to have two crewmembers on site. This is important for emergency responders, police, cities, and towns.

Safety is definitely a Minnesota issue. Some have argued that a two-person crew requirement is subject to collective bargaining and/or is preempted under federal law. This has been repeatedly been disproven. In fact, several states currently have a two-person crew state law, including neighboring Wisconsin.

Minnesota has historically been at the forefront of protecting working people on the job. The two-person train crew legislation builds upon that legacy.

The Minnesota AFL-CIO is proud to stand with the men and women of the Sheet Metal Air/RailTransportation (SMART) Transportation Division Union and the Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Union in support of SF 1417. We respectfully ask for your YES vote to move this legislation forward.

Thank you for your time and please contact us should you have questions.

Sincerely,

Bernie Burnham
President

Brad Lehto
Secretary-Treasurer

Melissa Hysing
Legislative Director

cc: Senator Jen McEwen