



February 10, 2023

Representative Jeff Brand
501 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Jennifer McEwen
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3217
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: HF 1272 (Brand)/SF 1417 (McEwen) Minimum crew size required for rail carriers

Dear Representative Brand and Senator McEwen,

Thank you for authoring HF 1272/SF 1417, a bill that would require two-person crews on trains in Minnesota that are carrying freight. The League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) supports this legislation, and city officials throughout the state are hopeful it will advance in 2023.

Safety concerns about freight trains have become more pronounced for city leaders and residents as the number and length of trains have increased due to frac sand and crude oil entering the state by rail to and from North Dakota. During the 2015 interim, a committee of city officials spent considerable time learning about and discussing freight rail safety issues. The committee recommended—and the League’s Board of Directors adopted—policy language stating state law should require every train that is carrying freight to be operated with a crew of at least two crewmembers. The League believes having at least two crewmembers on freight trains is essential to public safety and timely emergency response.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to you in advancing this legislation. I can be reached at (651)281-1263 or afinn@lmc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Finn".

Anne Finn
Assistant Intergovernmental Relations Director