

March 7, 2023

The Honorable
Senator Ron Latz
State of Minnesota
3105 Senate Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable
Representative Jamie Becker-Finn ✓
559 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Minnesota Legislation, S.F. 1417 / H.F. 1272.

Dear Chairpersons Latz and Becker-Finn,

I write to the Legislature today as a private citizen and in support of passage of S.F. 1417 and H.F. 1272, Minimum Train Crew Requirement.

After all parties have listed their policy positions and financial claims regarding railroad industry safety before you and the greater Legislature, I believe there is one essential question all legislators must consider when casting your vote:

After public vehicle and train collisions at grade-crossings across Minnesota, is the state of Minnesota going to allow private railroad carriers to leave injured persons unattended on the carrier right-of ways, in the ditches, of Minnesota?

Train crews are actual and unfortunate participants during grade-crossing collisions. We are the initial responders and provide immediate first aid to the injured. We control the accident site and assist the emergency first responders after they arrive. From a forty-year career as a railroad train-person, conductor, yardmaster, remote-control locomotive operator, and veteran of seven grade-crossing collisions with the general public, please accept my highest encouragement for the Legislature to fulfill your responsibility to protect the safety of the general public.

Thank you for your review and consideration. As always, safety first.

Sincerely,



Phillip Qualy
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