



March 23, 2022

Representative Frank Hornstein, Chair
House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee
545 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hornstein:

We're writing to inform you the Minnesota AFL-CIO supports the two-person train crew legislation, HF 4323 (Frederick). Passage of HF 4323 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 United Transportation Union in support of HF 4323. 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.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Hysing". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melissa Hysing
Legislative Director



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