



January 24, 2020

Senator Karen Keiser, Chair
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
219 John A. Cherberg Building
304 15th Avenue SW
Olympia, WA 98501

Senator Curtis King, Ranking Member
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
115 Irv Newhouse Building
15 Sid Snyder Avenue SW
Olympia, WA 98501

Representative Mike Sells, Chair
House Labor & Workplace Standards Committee
438B Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98501

Representative Gina Mosbrucker, Ranking Member
House Labor & Workplace Standards Committee
431 John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Chairwoman Keiser, Ranking Member King, Chairman Sells, and Ranking member Mosbrucker:

On behalf of the Washington State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), we write you asking for support of a multiple-person train crew legislation for the state of Washington. This legislation would add requirements for trains carrying hazardous materials across our state.

Original legislation written in 1966 is still in place and has not been updated. Currently an oil train can carry more than 1,000,000 gallons of Bakken Crude and stretch over 7,000 feet. Current legislation only requires a crew of one or two persons per train when carrying volatile fuels and other hazardous materials. It is not reasonable to minimize accidents and assist with emergency situations. Without additional crew members to assist with decoupling broken trains that can block roads and bridges, valuable time is lost when Emergency Response and Firefighters wait. The neighboring states of California (*Cal. Lab. Code § 6901(a)*) and Oregon (*Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 824.300*) have already set statutes in place to add additional crew to dangerous trains.

The SERC asks that you prioritize public safety by passing multiple-person train crew size legislation this session, for the sake of all our communities across the state and emergency responders who serve them.

Sincerely,

William "Bill" Whealan, Chair
Washington State Emergency Response Commission