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**April 30, 2025**

**Testimony of Nate Moulton  
Maine Department of Transportation  
Before the 132<sup>nd</sup> Legislature, Joint Standing Committee on Transportation**

**Neither For Nor Against**

LD 1015

*An Act to Require a Minimum of 2 Persons On a Crew for the Operation of Freight Trains*

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Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, I am Nate Moulton, Director of the Office of Freight and Business Logistics at the Maine Department of Transportation. MaineDOT is neither for nor against LD 1015, *An Act to Require a Minimum of 2 Persons On a Crew for the Operation of Freight Trains* but would like to provide this committee with information as you proceed to review and vote on this legislation.

This bill would require that a train or light engine used in connection with the movement of freight may not be operated unless it has a crew consisting of at least two persons. While this legislation does not directly impact MaineDOT, we would like to point out that any law passed within this state would be federally preempted.

Railroad companies and rail lines across the country as interstate commerce are overseen by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Surface Transportation Board (STB), as such we believe the State of Maine has no oversight or authority over this requirement. Last year the FRA issued rules (49 CFR Part 218) establishing a minimum safety requirement for the size of train crews, codifying crew staffing rules at the federal level, therefore mandating that freight and passenger rail operations are governed by consistent rules in all states. FRA's rule requires "railroad operations to have a minimum of two crewmembers except for certain identified one-person train crew operations that do not pose significant safety risks to railroad employees, the public or the environment".

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to try and address any questions any committee members might have.