



Joseph E. Rafferty
Senator, District 34

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Senator Joe Rafferty testimony presenting

LD 1015, "An Act to Require a Minimum of 2 Persons on a Crew for the Operation of Freight Trains,"

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

April 30, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Joe Rafferty, and I represent Senate District 34, which includes the towns of Berwick, North Berwick, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells. I am here today to present LD 1015, "An Act to Require a Minimum of 2 Persons on a Crew for the Operation of Freight Trains."

I'll keep my testimony brief. I have heard from many members of my community, who get a little worried whenever a freight car comes through our district. This fear stems from the worst case scenario, a derailment or crash. The derailment and subsequent forest fire from a derailment in Rockwood back in 2023, gives some substance to those concerns. With that in mind, safety has been at the front of my mind.

In order to make sure our freight trains safely get from point A to point B, I believe it is important to require at least two employees to operate a freight train. To make a sports analogy, we never expect one player on a football team to play each position. If they did, the team would fall apart quickly, the other team would make its way through the cracks, and failure would be all but certain. By delegating tasks between multiple people, we increase the odds of success and ensure that each member of the team can divide responsibility, and be able to support each other when needed. That's what this bill does —but for folks operating a train.

I thank you for your time and consideration. I invite you to direct your questions to some of the speakers after me, who may be more knowledgeable on this subject.