



TESTIMONY FOR HB0352
Railroad Company - Movement of Freight - Required Crew

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Stein

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0352 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

Downsizing and saving money are generally considered good things. But not when they put people's lives at risk. Allowing a freight train to run on the same tracks as a commuter train with only one person capable of operating the freight train on board is a ridiculous and potentially criminal idea. If that single person has a heart attack or a stroke, the freight train is left hurtling down the track with no one guiding it. The outcome would be nothing short of tragic. And preventable.

There should be two people on the train capable of operating it. Without question. The little bit of money it would save to have only one person cannot be measured against the lives of all the people on the commuter train.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.