



Eastern Atlantic States
REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

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HB 492 – Movement of Freight – Required Crew

FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Barve and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the Eastern Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters, please accept this letter in support of HB492.

Rail safety is of the utmost importance to the public and to the flow of goods and service throughout interstate commerce. This bill requires at least two crew members on all freight rail trains when traveling in Maryland, which is important to protect both the train workers and the public as these trains travel through the state.

Put simply, if a single train operator becomes ill, incapacitated, or focused on an urgent issue within the train, such as requiring the administration of complicated and labor-intensive hand braking procedures, there must be a second person who can take over operational crew tasks, assist, or tend to the emergency at hand. This legislation facilitates that greatly need redundancy and assistance.

For the forgoing reasons, we thank Delegate Stein for introducing this legislation, and we ask for a favorable committee report.