



March 19, 2021

The Delores Kelley  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Oppose – House Bill 492: Railroad Company - Movement of Freight - Required Crew

Dear Chairman Kelley and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Baltimore Industrial Group (BIG) was established in 2005 by public and private business organizations in the Baltimore metropolitan region to advocate for industry and maritime operations. The group represents businesses involved in manufacturing, transportation, maritime, shipping, and warehousing. BIG members alone employ 16,000 workers directly and indirectly in the Baltimore metropolitan area and generate billions of dollars in annual revenue.

BIG opposes House Bill 492: Railroad Company - Movement of Freight - Required Crew (HB 492) as many of our members depend on moving products to customers by truck or train. Should the State of Maryland enact HB 492 and require an additional crew member on freight locomotive, BIG foresees an increase in cost and a decrease in efficiency for freight movement through the Port of Baltimore. In addition, since other East Coast ports do not have to contend with the crew size requirement proposed by HB 492, the Port of Baltimore's regional competitiveness and its ability to innovate and pivot to new technology will be negatively impacted.

The people of Baltimore need good jobs – the kind of family-sustaining jobs that BIG members provide. Given the lack of compelling or empirical safety benefits promised in this legislation, BIG requests that the committee give HB 492 an unfavorable report.

BIG looks forward to working with the State on solutions that work for the efficient movement of freight. If you have questions on this testimony or need additional information, please contact Thomas Tompsett Jr at [tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com](mailto:tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com).

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