



Senate Finance Committee

To: Senator Pam Beidle, Chair; Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice-Chair; and Members of the Committee.
From: Jason Ascher, Political Director, Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association.

SUPPORT SB 855 - Railroads - Safety Requirements (Maryland Railway Safety Act of 2025)

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and its over 20,000 members and families across Maryland, I ask you to **SUPPORT SB 855**.

We stand in solidarity with our brothers working on train crews. In the Pipe Trades, as with the rest of the building trades community, we train our members to think safety first and ensure apprentices receive the necessary training from OSHA and work under a licensed journeyman throughout their training. Not having two crew members on a train is like sending a day one first-year apprentice onto a construction site without a journeyman and telling them to weld two multi-ton pipes together. Safety must come first on the railways, as on the construction site.

In the construction industry, apprentices learn on the job by working with a journeyman. The journeyman is there to have a mentor to help teach them their craft, ensure compliance with safety standards, and teach them the ins and outs of a job. Similarly, a single-man crew leaves new conductors without mentorship from an experienced engineer teaching them the locomotive system's ins and outs, signal systems, and tracks. A single crew member would lead to fewer experienced conductors and engineers and a less safe work environment.

Having a single crew member on a train also means no second set of eyes reminds them of slow orders, blocked signals, or mechanical failure at road crossings. A single crew member would also lead to unnecessary distractions, some of which would be mandatory, like copying directives and responding on the radio. These people are human, and that second set of eyes helps make sure tragic mistakes do not happen.

For the reasons listed above, I ask you to **SUPPORT SB 855**.

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher
Political Director
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

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Plumbers and Gasfitter Local 5 – Camp Springs, MD
Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 10 – Richmond, VA/Roanoke, VA
Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 110 – Norfolk, VA
Road Sprinkler Fitters Local 669 – Columbia, MD

Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486 – Baltimore, MD
Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 489 – Cumberland, MD
Steamfitters Local 602 – Capitol Heights, MD