



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

CHRISTOPHER M. CASH: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President
WILLIAM T. NG: Financial Secretary • RICHARD G. MURPHY: Recording Secretary • MARK F. PONTELLO: Treasurer



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT HB 862 RAILROADS-REQUIRED CREW for MOVEMENT of FREIGHT February 26, 2026

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Tom Clark, Political Director, Intl' Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Mr. Chair, Madame Vice Chair and members of the Committee. I ask you to consider a **favorable report on HB 862**. Your support of this legislation puts safety first, for all that work, ride and live along Maryland's railroads.

You see this Bill in front of the legislature each year. Yet for some reason this bill, that can save lives, falls through the cracks. As you contemplate this bill, I would like to give you some recent history where a 2-person crew would have prevented the loss of lives.

1-The 2013 Lac-Megantic Rail Disaster, Canada. A freight train carrying crude oil derailed and exploded, killing 47 people. A two-person crew may have led the train to be secured properly.

2-The 2004 Macdona, Texas, fatigued engineer ran a stop signal and 3 were killed, including two residents. Could have been prevented by a 2-person crew.

The interesting thing is that **if** we were to have an accident like this in our great state, this bill would pass immediately. Both parties, The Senate President, The Speaker, the Governor and the citizens of Maryland would demand this legislation be filed, passed and signed into law...pronto! So, I ask you not to hesitate, not to "lock the barn door after the horse has bolted." I simply ask you to put safety first and make the well-being of our railroad personnel and the many Marylanders that reside along these rails a top priority.

Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee, I ask you to "lock the barn door" now, think about the lives you can save and **support HB 862**. Thank you





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