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## **Environment and Transportation**

**To:** Delegate Marc Korman, Chair; Delegate Michele Guyton, Vice Chair; Members of the Committee  
**From:** Jason Ascher, Political Director, Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

### **SUPPORT – HB 862 - Movement of Freight – Required Crew**

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association, including its six local unions and over 20,000 members and families across Maryland, I ask you to **SUPPORT HB 862 – Movement of Freight – Required Crew**.

We stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters working on train crews. In the Pipe Trades, like with the rest of the building trades, community safety is key. We train our apprentices from day one to think safety first and ensure they receive the necessary OSHA training 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. On the railways, as on the construction site, safety must come first.

In the construction industry, apprentices learn on the job by working with a journeyman. The journeyman is there to have a mentor who helps teach them their craft, ensures compliance with safety standards, and explains the ins and outs of the job. Similarly, a single-man crew leaves the conductors without a second set of hands or eyes to make sure the trip is completed safely. A single crew member on a train also means there is no second set of eyes to remind them of slow orders, blocked signals, or mechanical failure at road crossings. A single crew member would also create unnecessary distractions, some of which would be mandatory, such as copying directives and responding on the radio. These people are human, and that second set of eyes and hands helps make sure tragic mistakes do not happen.

For the reasons listed above, I ask you to **SUPPORT HB 862**.

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher  
Political Director  
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

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**Plumbers and Gasfitters Local 5** – Lanham, MD  
**Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 10** – Richmond, VA/Roanoke, VA  
**Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 110** – Norfolk, VA  
**Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 74** – Newark, DE

**Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486** – Baltimore, MD  
**Steamfitters Local 602** – Capitol Heights, MD  
**Road Sprinkler Fitters Local 669** – Columbia, MD