

RESOLUTION NO. _____, 2019

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE
“SAFE FREIGHT ACT OF 2019” H.R. 1748**

WHEREAS, the safe operation of freight trains is vital to commerce; and efforts to keep freight train operations safe in our state of Utah is paramount; and

WHEREAS, trains continue to get longer, up to over two miles long, bringing a greater chance of trains blocking public crossings for longer periods of time; and

WHEREAS, it requires a minimum of two persons to separate a train to clear a blocked crossing; and

WHEREAS, a minimum of two on-board crew members are vital to operate a train safely, and minimize the likelihood of train-related accidents; and

WHEREAS, Locomotive Engineers and Conductors are each responsible for a long list of unique duties, most of which must be carried out simultaneously; and

WHEREAS, if the engineer should have a critical health issue there needs to be someone who can take control of the train, call for help, and administer first aid; and

WHEREAS, virtually all trains in North America are already operated by crews of at least two individuals, making the economic impact of H.R. 1748 minimal; and

WHEREAS, the advancements in automated technology such as Positive Train Control (PTC) overlay systems could improve railroad safety, they are not a substitute for a train’s on-board crew members; and

WHEREAS, several states have passed legislation mandating a minimum of 2 person crews, and

WHEREAS, a wide variety of government officials and organizations support 2 person crews, including several members of Congress, State Legislators, Mayors, City Councils, the National League of Cities, the National Law & Policy Center, and the Western Organization of Resource Councils; and

WHEREAS, polling across America shows overwhelming bi-partisan support of two-person crews, with 82 to 90 percent of those polled in favor of mandating that trains be operated by a crew of at least two qualified individuals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Salt Lake County Council does hereby support the "Safe Freight Act of 2019" H.R. 1748, requiring that freight trains operated in the United States of America be operated by a crew consisting of at least 2 individuals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be filed with the United States Congress, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman, Peter DeFazio, in support of H.R. 1748 the "Safe Freight Act of 2019."

APPROVED and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2019.

SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL

BY: _____
Richard Snelgrove, Chair

ATTEST:

Sherrie Swensen
Salt Lake County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Gavin Anderson
Deputy District Attorney
Date: 5 November 2019

VOTING

Council Member Bradley voting _____
Council Member Bradshaw voting _____
Council Member Burdick voting _____
Council Member DeBry voting _____
Council Member Ghorbani voting _____
Council Member Granato voting _____
Council Member Jensen voting _____
Council Member Newton voting _____
Council Member Snelgrove voting _____