

TTD NEWS RELEASE

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Statement on Proposed Rule Setting Train Crew Size Minimums

WASHINGTON, DC — Edward Wytkind, president of the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD), issues this statement in response to the Federal Railroad Administration's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking establishing a minimum size for train crews:

"We have long argued that trains operated by one person are unsafe and should be barred by our government. Yesterday the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and its Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) advanced a proposal that would set a floor of at least two crew members on trains, with some exceptions. We commend Transportation Secretary Foxx and FRA Administrator Feinberg for moving forward on this long overdue rail safety initiative.

"We will make the case during the comment period for key modifications to the rule as proposed. Among our concerns are the ill-advised provisions offered as an option in the rule which would permit one-person crew operations in certain circumstances. These measures are overly lenient and should be removed from the final rule.

"The [last thing Americans want](#) are 19,000-ton freight trains, many loaded with hazardous materials, traversing our neighborhoods with a single crew member at the controls. We will advocate for a final federal rule that effectively prohibits the railroads from running one person train crew operations."

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The Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO, provides a bold voice for workers in every mode of transportation devoted to protecting middle-class jobs, expanding collective bargaining, and ensuring modern, safe, and secure transportation operations and infrastructure. For more information, visit us at www.ttd.org.

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