

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FRA CREW SIZE RULE

WHEREAS, the safe operation of freight and passenger trains is vital not only to interstate commerce but also to the health and welfare of local communities, and the Village of Sugar Grove supports efforts to keep train operations safe in our state, county and village; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to require minimum staffing on trains, a factor vital to ensuring safe train operations; and

WHEREAS the FRA NPRM proposes two alternate options for permitting a railroad to operate with fewer than a two-person crew, the first of which is stronger because it requires FRA review and approval prior to commencement of those operation as opposed to after; and

WHEREAS, polling across the nation shows overwhelming bi-partisan support of two-person crews, with 83 to 87 percent of those polled in favor of mandating that trains be operated by a crew of at least two qualified individuals; and

WHEREAS, national studies show that a minimum of two onboard crew members is vital to operate a train safely and minimize the likelihood of train-related accidents; and

WHEREAS, the FRA proposal for a two-person minimum train crew recognizes that while technologies, like Positive Train Control (PTC), can improve safety, they do not perform several important physical and cognitive functions currently performed by a second crewmember; and

WHEREAS, attending to a disabled train in a timely manner, opening a blocked crossing for an emergency vehicle to pass, and providing timely and accurate information to emergency responders are vital functions train crews perform; and

WHEREAS, a railroad's use or reliance on new, innovative technology for its operations should not place new risks or burdens on local communities; and

WHEREAS, metropolitan Chicago is the one of nation's largest and most significant rail hubs, making rail safety an important consideration for many of the region's municipalities and counties with rail lines within their boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago metropolitan region is home to some 1,500 public at-grade highway-rail crossings, which account for some 7,800 hours of motorist delay each weekday; and

WHEREAS, over 280 collisions have occurred at the Chicago metropolitan region's highway-rail grade crossings between 2009 and 2014, resulting in 65 fatalities and 146 injuries; and

WHEREAS, rail safety issues have been particularly salient in recent years after a series of high-profile derailments, collisions, and releases of flammable liquids shipped by rail, as well as collisions at highway-rail grade crossings across the country and in Canada and has caused Canadian regulators to put in place a two-member crew requirement for any train transporting hazardous goods; and

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

WHEREAS, the public deserves the assurance that a thorough risk analysis has been completed, risks have been properly identified, and a rail carrier has mitigated these risks in advance of any approval for reduced crew staffing and borne the burden and cost to mitigate these risks; and

THEN THEREFORE be it resolved, that the Village of Sugar Grove, County of Kane does hereby support the FRA's train crew staffing NPRM and encourages the FRA to strengthen the rule to ensure that communities around railroads are protected and safe by requiring FRA review and approval before a railroad is allowed to operate with less than a two-person crew.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be filed with the United States Department of Transportation in the form of comments to Docket Number FRA-2014-0033 and Regulatory Identification Number 2130-AC48 in support of a strong federal rule.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Sugar Grove, Kane County, Illinois, on this 3rd day of May, 2016.

P. Sean Michels

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President of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Sugar Grove, Kane County, Illinois

	Aye	Nay	Absent
Trustee Koch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trustee Herron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trustee Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trustee Paluch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trustee Geary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trustee Montalto	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ATTEST: Cynthia Galbreath

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Clerk, Village of Sugar Grove

