



**SHAWNEE COUNTY**  
**Department of**  
**Emergency Management**

200 SE 7<sup>th</sup> Street SB 10  
Emergency Operations Center  
Topeka, KS 66603  
Dave Sterbenz, Director  
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Distinguished Members of the Committee on Transportation,  
Kansas State Legislature Senate  
State Capitol, Room 345-S  
Topeka, KS 66612

Support SB164

Dear Sen. Peterson and Members of the Committee:

Hello my name is Dave Sterbenz I am the director of Shawnee County Emergency Management. Emergency Management is the creation of plans through which communities reduce vulnerability to hazards and cope with disasters. Emergency management consists of five phases: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

We believe SB164 covers all five of these phases. There have been recent train accidents that are linked with one-man crews. Most notable the recent train disaster in Canada that killed 47 citizens. From an EM perspective it is imperative knowledgeable trained crew members are able to assist in emergency situations. We have to be able to ascertain what hazardous materials we are dealing with in derailment situations and in some situations like the recent Lynchburg, VA train derailment the 2<sup>nd</sup> crew member was able to split most of the train away from the punctured cars on fire thereby reducing much of the damage that could have been caused to the city.

Having crossings open if trains are blocking them is vital to public safety. With one man on a train this cannot be done in a timely manner in emergency situations. Having at a minimum two crew members on a train is essential for public safety.

Please support SB164. And I stand for questions.

Thank you for your consideration.