

**VALENCIA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION
RESOLUTION 2016-29**

Resolution in Support of FRA Crew Size Rule

WHEREAS, the Valencia County Commission met upon notice of meeting duly published on April 6, 2016, at 5:00 P.M. in the Valencia County Administration Building, 444 Luna Avenue, Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031; and

WHEREAS, NMSA 1978, Section 4-37-1 (1995) provides that Counties have the power to, “provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote the prosperity and improve the morals, order, comfort and convenience of any county or its inhabitants”; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 4-38-1 (1884) the powers of a county as a body politic and corporate are exercised by its Board of County Commissioners; and,

WHEREAS, the safe operation of freight and passenger trains are vital to commerce; and the Board of County Commissioners of Valencia County supports efforts to keep train operations safe in our County.

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

WHEREAS, polling across America from North Dakota to Alabama 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 on-board crew members are vital to operate a train safely and minimize the likelihood of train-related accidents; and

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


WHEREAS, the FRA agrees that, while advancements in automated technology such as Positive Train Control (PTC) systems improve railroad safety, they are not a substitute for a train’s on-board crew members.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Valencia County supports the FRA’s proposed ruling, requiring that trains operated in America be operated by no less than a two-person crew; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be filed with the United States Department of Transportation in the form of comments in support of the proposed federal rule.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this 6th day of April, 2016.


Charles D. Eaton, Chair, District IV


Jhonathan Aragon, Vice Chair, District V


Helen Y. Cole, District I


Alicia Aguilar, District II


David A. Hyder, District III

Attest:


Peggy Catabajal, County Clerk

