

October 23, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Reid, Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi,

The undersigned organizations representing American farmers, manufacturers, retailers, energy providers and other freight rail customers strongly urge Congress to act without further delay to pass an appropriate extension to complete the installation of positive train control (PTC) on the nation's rail lines. This PTC issue must be resolved in the upcoming highway bill extension in order to avoid a disruption to the supply of vital commodities—we cannot afford for this issue to go unresolved into November.

It has been made abundantly clear that PTC will not be installed in time to meet the rapidly approaching regulatory deadline. As a result, passenger and freight railroads have told Congress and their customers that they will shut down large segments of the nation's freight rail network. A disruption in freight rail service of this magnitude would jeopardize the nation's access to food, energy and water supplies and negatively impact every sector of the U.S. economy.

A shutdown of rail service is very real, and rail customers are already starting to feel the impacts. We have received notifications that disruptions will begin next month to complete shipments that are in transit and that railroads will not accept new shipments. With a shutdown just around the corner, rail customers must start putting contingency plans into motion, including adjusting production schedules and workforce levels.

Without a solution from Congress in the next few weeks, the impacts on our members and the broader economy will grow every day. A recent economic impact analysis by the American Chemistry Council calculated that a one month shutdown will pull \$30 billion out of the economy with a loss of 700,000 jobs.

Our members and the U.S. economy need a solution from Congress now to keep the trains running. Passing an extension should not be held hostage to resolve other issues. We strongly support the legislative compromise that was approved by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in the mark-up of the highway bill on Thursday, and we appreciate all of the efforts by Senate and House leaders to move forward with an extension.

We strongly urge that you work with your colleagues to include a provision to extend the PTC deadline in the highway bill extension before the end of this month. This legislation is the best and most expedient way to resolve this issue and to avert a nationwide shutdown of rail service.

Sincerely,

AgriBusiness Association of Kentucky

Agribusiness Council of Indiana

Agricultural Retailers Association

Agriculture Transportation Coalition

Airforwarders Association

Alabama Agribusiness Council

Alabama Crop Management Association

Alliance for Rail Competition

Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers

Almond Hullers & Processors Association

American Apparel & Footwear Association

American Chemistry Council

American Coatings Association

American Composites Manufacturers Association

American Cotton Shippers Association

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers

American Import Shippers Association

American Iron and Steel Institute

American Malting Barley Association, Inc.

American Pyrotechnics Association

Auto Care Association

Automotive Oil Change Association
Brokers Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Farm Bureau Federation
Chemical Industry Council of California
Chemical Industry Council of Delaware
Chemical Industry Council of Illinois
Chemistry Council of Missouri
Chemistry Council of New Jersey
Chicago Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association
The Chlorine Institute
Colorado Association of Wheat Growers
Connecticut Business and Industry Association
Corn Refiners Association
Delaware-Maryland Agribusiness Association
Far West Agribusiness Association
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association
The Fertilizer Institute
Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association
Foreign Trade Association
Freight Rail Customer Alliance
Gemini Shippers Association
Georgia Agribusiness Council
Georgia Chemistry Council
Glass Packaging Institute

Global Automakers

Grocery Manufacturers Association

Growth Energy

Harbor Trucking Association

Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association

Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association

Indiana Corn Growers Association

Indiana Farm Bureau

Indiana Soybean Alliance

Institute of Makers of Explosives

Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.

International Warehouse Logistics Association

Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association

Kentucky Association of Manufacturers

Kentucky Chemical Industry Council

Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Los Angeles Chemical Association

Louisiana Chemical Association

Manufacture Alabama

Massachusetts Chemistry & Technology Alliance, Inc.

Meat Import Council of America

Michigan Agri-Business Association

Michigan Chemistry Council

Michigan Farm Bureau

Minnesota AgriGrowth Council

Minnesota Crop Production Retailers

Missouri Agribusiness Association

Montana Agricultural Business Association

Montana Grain Elevator Association

Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association

National Association of Chemical Distributors

National Association of Manufacturers

National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

National Association of Water Companies

National Association of Wheat Growers

National Cattlemen's Beef Association

National Chicken Council

National Corn Growers Association

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

National Farmers Union

National Industrial Transportation League

National Onion Association

National Pasta Association

National Pork Producers Council

National Potato Council

National Retail Federation

National Shippers Strategic Transportation Council

National Sunflower Association

New York State Chemistry Council

New York/New Jersey Foreign Freight Forwarders and Brokers Association, Inc.

North American Meat Institute

North Dakota Agricultural Association

Ohio AgriBusiness Association

Ohio Chemistry Technology Council

Oklahoma Agribusiness Retailers Association

Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association

Oregonians for Food & Shelter

Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association

Railway Supply Institute

Renewable Fuels Association

Retail Industry Leaders Association

Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association

San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership

Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates

South Carolina Fertilizer and Agrichemicals Association

South Dakota Agri-Business Association

State Chamber of Oklahoma

Steel Manufacturers Association

Texas Chemistry Council

Travel Goods Association

U.S. Apple Association

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

United States Dry Bean Council

United States Fashion Industry Association

United States Hide, Skin and Leather Association

Vinyl Building Council

The Vinyl Institute

Washington Association of Wheat Growers

Washington Farm Bureau

Washington Friends of Farms & Forests

Washington State Potato Commission

West Virginia Manufacturers Association

Western Plant Health Association

Wisconsin Agri-Business Association

Wyoming Agriculture Business Association

Wyoming Wheat Marketing Commission

cc: The Honorable John Thune
The Honorable Bill Nelson
The Honorable Bill Shuster
The Honorable Peter DeFazio