



September 15, 2022

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Donald Payne, Jr.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and
Hazardous Materials
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
106 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Crawford
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and
Hazardous Materials
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2422 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen DeFazio and Payne and Ranking Members Graves and Crawford:

The Rail Customer Coalition (RCC) member companies welcome the announcement of a new agreement between railroads and rail labor, which averts a potential catastrophic shutdown of the rail network. This agreement helps put one major problem to rest, but also highlights the work that needs to be done to resolve the freight rail problems that are continuing to harm the U.S. economy and prolong the supply chain crisis.

The undersigned members of the RCC support the Freight Rail Shipping Fair Market Act. This legislation would reauthorize the Surface Transportation Board (STB), which expired nearly two years ago and help the Board address the major decline in freight rail service.

The RCC is a large collection of trade associations representing a broad cross-section of manufacturing, agricultural, and energy industries that depend on the railroads to deliver reliable and affordable service. The coalition represents some of the nation's largest customers of freight rail service both by volume and revenue.

As recent hearings have shown, freight railroads are failing to deliver for American farmers, manufacturers, energy producers and consumers. The U.S. economy and the supply chain are being weakened by chronic and widespread rail service problems — from major delays to embargos — that are preventing critical materials and finished goods from getting where they need to go. Service failures are contributing to higher prices and supply chain disruptions for food, fuel, and countless other products.

The Freight Rail Shipping Fair Market Act will help address these problems and support the reform efforts underway at the STB. The proposal contains many common-sense provisions that would improve service and create a more balanced system for railroads and their customers. Specifically, the legislation:

- Allows Congress to take meaningful action to help their constituents;
- Provides support and resources to help the STB modernize its policies and better address today's railroad challenges;
- Requires the development of service standards and helps hold railroads accountable for failing to meet their service obligations;
- Strengthens the STB's emergency powers to help resolve urgent service problems;
- Helps restore balance between rail customers and carriers;
- Creates market conditions to promote better and more consistent rail service; and
- Establishes incentives for improved and expanded freight rail service

We urge Congress to do more than just exercise its oversight authority and partner with STB to provide meaningful solutions. We thank you for your leadership on these important issues and look forward to working with you to keep our economy moving by passing the Freight Rail Shipping Fair Market Act.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition
Alliance for Rail Competition
American Bakers Association
American Chemistry Council
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Forest & Paper Association
American Malting Barley Association, Inc.
American Petroleum Institute
Associated Industries of Massachusetts
Chemistry Council of Missouri
Chemistry Council of New Jersey
Chemical Industry Council of California
Chemical Industry Council of Delaware
Chemical Industry Council of Illinois
The Chlorine Institute
Consumer Brands Association
Corn Refiners Association
Defoamer Industry Trade Association
The Fertilizer Institute
Freight Rail Customer Alliance
Foundry Association of Michigan

Georgia Chemistry Council
Glass Packaging Institute
Idaho Grain Producers Association
Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association
Industrial Minerals Association — North America
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
International Warehouse Logistics Association
Louisiana Chemical Association
Manufacture Alabama Chemistry Advisory Council
Manufacturers Association of Florida
Massachusetts Chemistry Technology Alliance
Michigan Chemistry Council
Motorcycle Industry Council
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Barley Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Grain and Feed Association
National Grange
National Industrial Transportation League
National Mining Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
National Sorghum Producers
National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association
Nebraska Wheat Board
New York State Chemistry Council
North American Millers' Association
North Carolina Manufacturers Alliance
Ohio Chemistry Technology Council
Ohio Manufactures' Association
Pennsylvania Chemical Industry Council
Plastics Industry Association
Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association
Portland Cement Association
Private Railcar Food and Beverage Association
PVC Pipe Association
Renewable Fuels Association
Resilient Floor Covering Institute
Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association
South Carolina Manufacturers Association
Steel Manufacturers Association
The Sulphur Institute
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Texas Chemical Council
United States Fashion Industry Association
Vinyl Building Council
Vinyl Institute
Vinyl Siding Institute
West Virginia Manufacturers Association
Wyoming Wheat Marketing Commission

cc: House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Members