

November 28, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, and Republican Leaders McConnell and McCarthy:

We write you today on a matter of grave urgency. Once again, the United States is facing the threat of a major rail strike between the major freight railroads and 12 labor unions, the second such time in less than three months. A stoppage of rail service for any duration would be extremely damaging to American families and our economy, costing \$2 billion dollars per day.<sup>1</sup> As provided for under federal law and consistent with past practice, Congress must be prepared to intervene before the end of the current “status quo” period on December 9 to ensure continued rail service should railroads and four unions fail to reach a voluntary agreement. A strike by any one union would assuredly result in a stoppage of national rail service.

While the recent decision to have all four unions align the end of their “status quo” to December 9 is good, in reality the decision is hardly helpful. Many businesses and communities rely on regular, uninterrupted rail service. The uncertainty of rail service during this year’s protracted contract negotiations has created enormous anxiety.<sup>2</sup> In September, the mere possibility of a rail service stoppage created significant disruptions to the timely delivery of critical goods and products. The freight railroads must safely reduce operations and secure their customers’ goods days in advance of a potential strike, meaning businesses and communities saw interruptions in the delivery of fertilizers, chlorine, and other products essential to clean water, our food supply, and electricity generation. Many businesses will see the impacts of a national rail strike well before December 9 – through service disruptions and other impacts potentially as early as December 5.<sup>3</sup> The sooner this labor impasse ends, the better for our communities and our national economy.

A potential rail strike only adds to the headwinds facing the U.S. economy. A rail stoppage would immediately lead to supply shortages and higher prices. The cessation of Amtrak and commuter rail services would disrupt up to 7 million travelers a day. Many businesses would

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<sup>1</sup> Association of American Railroads, “The Economic Impact of a Railroad Shutdown,” September 2022, <https://www.aar.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/AAR-Rail-Shutdown-Report-September-2022.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> AP News, “Rail strike worry prompts businesses to seek WH intervention,” by Josh Funk, October 27, 2022, <https://apnews.com/article/biden-business-economy-congress-government-and-politics-6b60d53fefc7b85f301b0a3e7011715b>

<sup>3</sup> Association of American Railroads, “Railroad Suspension of Operations” November 2022, <https://www.aar.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/AAR-Railroad-Suspension-of-Operations-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

see their sales disrupted right in the middle of the critical holiday shopping season. Even a short-term rail strike would have enormous impacts. The American agricultural community could see disruptions in transporting 6,300 carloads of food and farm products that are carried by rail daily. It would also halt the delivery of key chemicals necessary to our communities including chlorine, which is necessary for effective water and wastewater treatment operations. In many cases, businesses and communities rely on regular rail service and may not have significant reserves, even in the event of a short-term strike.

No one wins when the railroads stop running. Congress recognized their necessity to interstate commerce and America's economic health with the passage of the Railway Labor Act and past congressional interventions in rail labor disputes when other steps fail. Indeed, Congress has intervened 18 times since 1926 in labor negotiations that threaten interstate commerce and there is no reason why Congress should deviate from this record today. While a voluntary agreement with the four holdout unions is the best outcome, the risks to America's economy and communities simply make a national rail strike unacceptable. Therefore, absent a voluntary agreement, we call on you to take immediate steps to prevent a national rail strike and the certain economic destruction that would follow.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Association of Iowa  
AgriBusiness Association of Kentucky  
Agricultural & Food Transporters Conference of ATA  
Agricultural Retailers Association  
Agriculture Transportation Coalition  
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute  
Airforwarders Association  
Alameda Chamber & Economic Alliance  
Albany Area Chamber  
Alliance for Automotive Innovation  
Alliance of Wisconsin Retailers  
Aluminum Association  
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)  
American Association of Port Authorities  
American Bakers Association  
American Beverage Association  
American Bridal and Prom Industry Association  
American Building Materials Alliance (ABMA)  
American Chemistry Council  
American Coatings Association, Inc.  
American Composites Manufacturers Association  
American Cotton Producers  
American Cotton Shippers Association  
American Down and Feather Council

American Exploration & Production Council  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Forest & Paper Association  
American Foundry Society  
American Frozen Foods Institute  
American Home Furnishings Alliance  
American International Automobile Dealers Association  
American Lighting Association  
American Petroleum Institute  
American Pyrotechnics Association  
American Spice Trade Association  
American Trucking Associations  
Antelope Valley Chambers of Commerce  
Apache Junction Area Chamber of Commerce  
Arizona Beverage Association  
Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
Arizona Trucking Association  
Arkansas Grocers and Retail Merchants  
Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/AIA  
Associated Builders and Contractors  
Associated Equipment Distributors  
Associated General Contractors of America  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)  
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies  
Athens Area Chamber of Commerce  
Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce  
Auto Care Association  
Autos Drive America  
Beer Institute  
Billings Chamber of Commerce  
Blount County Chamber of Commerce  
Border Trade Alliance  
Brea Chamber of Commerce  
Brick Industry Association  
Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Bullhead Area Chamber of Commerce  
Burlington Chamber of Commerce  
Business Council of Alabama  
Cache Valley Chamber of Commerce  
California Alfalfa and Forage Association  
California Association of Wheat Growers  
California Building Industry Association  
California Business Properties Association (CBPA)  
California Business Roundtable  
California Chamber of Commerce

California Farm Bureau  
California Grain and Feed Association  
California Retailers Association  
California Seed Association  
California Trucking Association  
California Warehouse Association  
Can Manufacturers Institute  
Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce  
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce  
Carolina Feed Industry Association  
Carson City Chamber of Commerce  
CAWA - Representing the Automotive Parts Industry  
Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce  
Chamber of Commerce Hawaii  
Chandler Chamber of Commerce  
Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Coalition of California Chambers Orange County  
Coalition of New England Companies for Trade  
Coastal Agricultural Supply, Inc.  
Color Pigments Manufacturers Association  
Colorado Motor Carriers Association  
Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce  
Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association  
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute  
Consumer Brands Association  
Consumer Technology Association  
Convenience Distribution Association  
Corn Refiners Association  
Corvallis Chamber of Commerce  
Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce  
Council for Responsible Nutrition  
Council of Fashion Designers of America  
Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals  
Covington Chamber of Commerce  
CropLife America  
Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of Northern California  
Customs Brokers and International Freight Forwarders Association of Washington State  
Danville Area Chamber of Commerce  
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States  
Donalsonville Seminole County Chamber of Commerce and Development Authority of  
Seminole County  
Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce  
Effingham County Chamber of Commerce  
El Paso Hispanic Chamber  
Fashion and Accessories Shippers Association

Fashion Jewelry and Accessories Trade Association  
Flexible Packaging Association  
Florida Feed Association, Inc.  
Florida Retail Federation  
Florida Trucking Association  
FMI - The Food Industry Association  
Foodservice Equipment Distributors Association  
Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA)  
Forest Resources Association  
Fountain Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Freight Rail Customer Alliance  
Fresh Produce Association of the Americas  
Fresno Chamber of Commerce  
Gallup McKinley County Chamber of Commerce  
Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce  
Gardner Chamber of Commerce  
Gateway Chambers Alliance  
Gemini Shippers Association  
Georgia Beverage Association  
Georgia Chamber of Commerce  
Georgia Motor Trucking Association  
Gilbert Chamber of Commerce  
Glass Packaging Institute  
Glendale Chamber of Commerce  
Glendora Chamber of Commerce  
Global Cold Chain Alliance  
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois  
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Bakersfield Chamber  
Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Des Moines Partnership  
Greater Escondido Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Gainesville Chamber  
Greater Lake Stevens Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Magnolia Parkway Chamber of Commerce  
Greater North Dakota Chamber  
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber  
Greater Ontario Business Council  
Greater Phoenix Chamber  
Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce  
Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Shreveport Chamber  
Greater Spokane Incorporated  
Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce  
Green Coffee Association, Inc.  
Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce  
Growth Energy  
GWACC Chamber of Commerce  
Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce  
Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce  
Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce  
Harbor Trucking Association  
Hardwood Federation  
Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce  
Health Industry Distributors Association  
Henderson Chamber of Commerce  
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce  
Home Fashion Products Association  
Hospitality Minnesota  
IAPD - The Performance Plastics Association  
Idaho Trucking Association  
Illinois Retail Merchants Association  
Indiana Chamber of Commerce  
Indiana Motor Truck Association  
Inland Empire Economic Partnership  
Institute of Makers of Explosives  
Institute of Shortening and Edible Oils  
Intermodal Association of North America  
International Association of Movers  
International Bottled Water Association  
International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC)  
International Dairy Foods Association  
International Foodservice Distributors Association  
International Franchise Association  
International Fresh Produce Association  
International Housewares Association  
International Wood Products Association  
Iowa Association of Business and Industry  
Iowa Motor Truck Association  
IWLA (International Warehouse Logistics Association)  
Jerome Chamber of Commerce  
Kalispell Chamber of Commerce  
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association  
Kansas Grain and Feed Association  
Kansas Motor Carriers Association  
Kentucky Grocers and Convenience Store Association  
Kentucky Propane Gas Association  
Kentucky Retail Federation

Kentucky Trucking Association  
Leather and Hide Council of America  
Lincoln City Chamber of Commerce  
Little Rock Regional Chamber  
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce  
Longview Chamber of Commerce  
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce  
Los Angeles County Business Federation  
Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association  
Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association  
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce  
Louisiana Chamber of Commerce  
Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance  
Maryland Chamber of Commerce  
Maryland Motor Truck Association  
Maryland Retailers Association  
Mason City Chamber of Commerce  
Meat Import Council of America  
Mesa Chamber of Commerce  
Metals Service Center Institute  
Methanol Institute  
Metro South Chamber of Commerce  
Michigan Agri-Business Association  
Michigan Chemistry Council  
Michigan Retailers Association  
Michigan Trucking Association  
Minneapolis Regional Chamber  
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce  
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association  
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association  
Mississippi Economic Council - the State Chamber  
Mississippi Retail & Grocers Association  
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Missouri Retailers Association  
Mobile Chamber  
Montana Chamber of Commerce  
Montana Retail Association  
Montana Trucking Association  
Moore County Chamber of Commerce  
Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce  
Motorcycle Industry Council  
Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce  
Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce  
National Association of Chemical Distributors  
National Association of Egg Farmers  
National Association of Flour Distributors (NAFD)

National Association of Home Builders  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Chicken Council  
National Confectioners Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Cotton Ginners Association  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America  
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)  
National Fisheries Institute  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Independent Automobile Dealers Association (NIADA)  
National Industrial Transportation League  
National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Mining Association  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Restaurant Association  
National Retail Federation  
National Sporting Goods Association  
National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association  
National Waste & Recycling Association  
National Wooden Pallet & Container Association  
Natural Products Association  
NC Chamber  
Nebraska Cooperative Council  
Nebraska Trucking Association  
Nevada Trucking Association  
New Hampshire Retail Association  
New Jersey Motor Truck Association  
New Jersey Retail Merchants Association  
New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce  
New Mexico Chamber of Commerce  
New York New Jersey Foreign Freight Forwarders and Brokers Association  
Nogales-Santa Cruz Chamber Commerce  
North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM)  
North American Association of Utility Distributors (NAAUD)  
North American Home Furnishings Association  
North American Meat Institute  
North American Millers' Association  
North American Renderers Association  
North Bay Leadership Council



North Carolina Agribusiness Council, Inc  
North Carolina Retail Merchants Association  
North Country Chamber of Commerce  
North Dakota Grain Growers Association  
North Dakota Motor Carriers Association  
Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance  
Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce  
Northwest Horticultural Council  
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce  
Oceanside Chamber of Commerce  
Ohio AgriBusiness Association  
Ohio Council of Retail Merchants  
Ohio Trucking Association  
Orange County Business Council  
Oregon Business & Industry  
Oregon Trucking Association  
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute  
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce  
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association  
Pacific Egg and Poultry Association  
Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Association  
Pacific Seed Association  
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce  
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce  
Pasco Chamber of Commerce  
Payson Santaquin Area Chamber of Commerce  
Peanut and Tree Nut Processors Association (PTNPA)  
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry  
Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association  
Pennsylvania Retailers' Association  
Peoria Chamber of Commerce  
Pet Advocacy Network  
Phoenix Feeds and Nutrition  
Plumbing Manufacturers International  
Point of the Mountain Chamber of Commerce  
Portland Cement Association  
PRINTING United Alliance  
Promotional Products Association International (PPAI)  
Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce  
Queens Chamber of Commerce  
Rail Supply Institute  
Railway Supply Institute  
Railway Systems Suppliers, Inc  
Railway Tie Association  
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association  
Renew Kansas Biofuels Association

Renewable Fuels Association  
Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce  
Renton Chamber of Commerce  
Retail Association of Maine  
Retail Council of New York State  
Retail Industry Leaders Association  
Retail Merchants of Hawaii  
Retailers Association of Massachusetts  
Rhode Island Trucking Association, Inc.  
Riverton Chamber and Visitor's Center  
Roseville Area Chamber of Commerce  
RV Industry Association  
Sacramento Metro Chamber  
Salt Lake Chamber  
San Diego Customs Brokers Association  
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership  
San Jose Chamber of Commerce  
San Pedro Chamber of Commerce  
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce  
Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce  
SC Timber Producers Association  
SC Trucking Association  
Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce  
Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce  
Seattle Southside Chamber of Commerce  
Seguin Area Chamber of Commerce  
Shippers Coalition  
Sierra Vista Area Chamber of Commerce  
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce  
SNAC International  
Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates  
South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce  
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce  
South Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association  
South Carolina Retail Association  
South Carolina Trucking Association  
South Dakota Agri-Business Association  
South Dakota Association of Cooperatives  
South Dakota Soybean Association  
South Kitsap Chamber of Commerce  
South Salt Lake Chamber  
South Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Southeastern Grain & Feed Association  
Southern California Leadership Council  
Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Specialty Equipment Market Association

Specialty Vehicle Institute of America  
Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)  
Spring Hill Chamber of Commerce  
St. Charles Regional Chamber  
St. George Area Chamber of Commerce  
State Chamber of Oklahoma  
Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Tag and Label Manufacturers Institute  
Tea Association of the U.S.A., Inc.  
Tennessee Trucking Association  
Texarkana USA Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Texas Ag Industries Association  
Texas Association of Business  
Texas Business Leadership Council  
Texas Grain and Feed Association  
Texas Trucking Association  
The Fertilizer Institute  
The Sulphur Institute  
The Toy Association  
Thurston County Chamber  
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce  
Transportation Intermediaries Association (TIA)  
Travel Goods Association  
Trucking Association of Massachusetts  
Trucking Association of New York  
Tucson Metro Chamber  
Tulsa Regional Chamber  
U.S. Apple Association  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
U.S. Durum Growers Association  
U.S. Fashion Industry Association  
United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce  
United Dairymen of Arizona  
USA Minority Chamber of Commerce, Inc.  
Valve Manufacturers Association  
Vegas Chamber  
Vermont Retail & Grocers Association  
Vinyl Institute  
Virginia Agribusiness Council  
Virginia Chamber of Commerce  
Wake Forest Area Chamber  
Washington Retail Association  
Washington State Potato Commission  
Washington State Tree Fruit Association  
Washington Trucking Associations  
West Valley Chamber of Commerce Alliance

West Ventura County Business Alliance  
West Virginia Chamber of Commerce  
White Pine Chamber of Commerce  
Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce  
Window & Door Manufacturers Association  
Wisconsin Bakers Association  
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC)  
Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association  
WV Retailers Association  
Wyoming State Chamber of Commerce  
Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce

cc: Members of the United States Senate

cc: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives