

September 15, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

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

RE: Congress Must Act to Avoid a Rail Strike

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

On behalf of the undersigned trade associations, we are writing to you today urging Congress to take immediate action to prevent a rail strike from occurring and further disrupting a stressed supply chain. A rail shutdown would have a significant impact on the U.S. economy and lead to further inflationary pressure.

We applaud President Biden for establishing the Presidential Emergency Board in mid-July. The PEB issued its recommendations on August 16. To date, nine of the twelve railroad unions have agreements in place based upon the PEB recommendations. If the remaining unions do not agree to a deal by the end of the day, there is real concern that a strike would shut down the entire system.

While the PEB has done its job, it is now time for Congress to ensure that a freight rail shutdown does not occur. Congress has the ability to implement the PEB's recommendations in whole, which we would encourage happens quickly after the cooling off period ends. S.J. Res. 61 in the Senate would do this, and companion legislation is expected soon in the House.

We continue to implore the parties to resolve these negotiations on their own, especially with the PEB recommendations. In the event they do not, however, Congress must step in immediately to protect the supply chain and ensure there is no interruption to rail service.

We thank you for your attention to this matter.