

October 27, 2022
President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Administration Must Continue to Engage to Avoid a Rail Strike

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the undersigned trade associations, we are writing to you today urging you to continue to work with the railroad unions and railroads to ensure that the tentative agreement that you helped broker is ratified by the parties. It is paramount that these contracts now be ratified, as a rail shutdown would have a significant impact on the U.S. economy and lead to further inflationary pressure.

We applaud your Administration for leading on this issue from the onset. With your help, from establishing the Presidential Emergency Board to involvement in the direct negotiations among the parties, the tentative agreement was reached on September 15. We have seen six of the twelve unions ratify the agreement to date.

Unfortunately, we have seen two unions reject the agreement and there are concerns that others may follow. If that were to be the case, we could witness a strike that would shut down the entire freight rail system. Because the White House played such a central role in the process, we believe it can be helpful in continuing to move the process forward in a positive direction. Otherwise, Congress will be called upon to act.

We continue to urge that the contracts be ratified to provide stability and predictability to the system. Your involvement can only help make that happen and ensure there is no interruption to rail service.

We thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Association of Iowa
AgriBusiness Association of Kentucky
Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Agricultural Retailers Association
AgTC Agriculture Transportation Coalition
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration
Institute
Airforwarders Association
Alabama Beverage Association
Alabama Trucking Association
Alliance for Automotive Innovation

Alliance of Wisconsin Retailers
Aluminum Association
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)
American Association of Exporters and Importers
American Bakers Association
American Beverage Association
American Building Materials Alliance
American Chemistry Council
American Composites Manufacturers Association
American Down and Feather Council
American Coatings Association

American Cotton Producers
 American Cotton Shippers Association
 American Farm Bureau Federation
 American Feed Industry Association
 American Forest & Paper Association
 American Foundry Society
 American Frozen Food Institute
 American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers
 American Herbal Products Association
 American Home Furnishings Alliance
 American Lighting Association
 American Petroleum Institute
 American Pyrotechnics Association
 American Seed Trade Association
 American Soybean Association
 American Spice Trade Association
 American Trucking Associations
 Arizona Beverage Association
 Arizona Retailers Association
 Arizona Trucking Association
 Arkansas Grocers and Retail Merchants
 Asian American Hotel Owners Association
 (AAHOA)
 Associated Equipment Distributors
 Associated Builders and Contractors
 Associated General Contractors of America
 Associated Industries of Missouri
 Association of Food Industries
 Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers
 (AHAM)
 Auto Care Association
 Autos Drive America
 Beer Institute
 California Alfalfa and Forage Association
 California Association for Local Economic
 Development
 California Association of Wheat Growers
 California Bean Shippers Association
 California Building Industry Association
 California Business Properties Association
 California Chamber of Commerce
 California Citrus Mutual
 California Fresh Fruit Association
 California Grain and Feed Association
 California Retailers Association
 California Rice Commission
 California Seed Association
 California Trucking Association
 California Warehouse Association
 Calorie Control Council
 Can Manufacturers Institute
 Carolina Feed Industry Association
 CAWA – Representing the Automotive Parts Industry
 Consumer Technology Association
 Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
 Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders Assn.
 Color Pigments Manufacturers Association, Inc.
 CONECT – Coalition of New England Companies
 for Trade
 Connecticut Retail Merchants Association
 Consumer Brands Association
 Convenience Distribution Association
 Corn Refiners Association
 Cottonseed and Feed Association
 Council of Fashion Designers of America
 Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals
 (CSCMP)
 Custom Brokers & Forwarders Assn. of Northern
 California
 Customs Brokers & International Freight Forwarders
 Assn. of Washington State
 Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S.
 Experiential Designers & Producers Association
 Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)
 Florida Feed Association, Inc.
 Florida Retail Federation
 Florida Trucking Association
 FMI – The Food Industry Association
 Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA)
 Forest Resources Association
 Fresh Produce association of the Americas
 Gemini Shippers Association (GEMINI)
 Georgia Beverage Association
 Georgia Motor Trucking Association
 Georgia Retailers
 Georgia Transportation Alliance
 Glass Packaging Institute
 Global Cold Chain Alliance
 Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
 Growth Energy
 Halloween & Costume Association
 Harbor Trucking Association
 Hardwood Federation
 Hazelnut Growers of Oregon
 Hardwood Federation
 Health Industry Distributors Association

Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association
 Heating, Air-conditioning, & Refrigeration
 Distributors International (HARDI)
 Home Fashion Products Association
 Hop Growers of America
 Hospitality Minnesota
 HR Policy Association
 IAPD – the performance plastics association
 Illinois Chamber of Commerce
 Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association
 Illinois Retail Merchants Association
 Indiana Motor Truck Association
 Indiana Retail Council
 Institute of Makers of Explosives
 Institute of Shortening and Edible Oils
 Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI)
 Intermodal Association of North America
 International Association of Movers
 International Bottled Water Association
 International Council of Shopping Centers
 International Dairy Foods Association
 International Food Additives Council
 International Foodservice Distributors
 Association
 International Franchise Association
 International Fresh Produce Association
 International Housewares Association
 IWLA (International Warehouse Logistics
 Association)
 Juice Products Association
 Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association
 Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
 Kansas Beverage Association
 Kansas Chamber of Commerce
 Kansas Corn Growers Association
 Kansas Grain and Feed Association
 Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association
 Kansas Livestock Association
 Kentucky Grocers & Convenience Store
 Association
 Kentucky Propane Gas Association
 Kentucky Retail Federation
 Leather and Hide Council of America
 Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
 Los Angeles Customs & Freight Brokers Assn.
 Maine Beverage Association
 Maryland Motor Truck Association
 Maryland Retailers Association
 Meat Import Council of America
 Methanol Institute
 Michigan Chamber of Commerce
 Michigan Chemistry Council
 Michigan Retailers Association
 Minnesota Grain and Feed Association
 Minnesota Retailers Association
 Minnesota Soybean Growers Association
 Minnesota Trucking Association
 Mississippi Lumber Manufacturers Association
 Mississippi Trucking Association
 Missouri Beverage Association
 Missouri Limestone Producers Association
 Missouri Retailers Association
 Missouri Tire Industry Association
 Montana Beverage Association
 Montana Retail Association
 Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA)
 Montana Feed Association
 National Aquaculture Association
 National Association of Chemical Distributors (NACD)
 National Association of Egg Farmers
 National Association of Electrical Distributors (NAED)
 National Association of Home Builders
 National Association of Manufacturers
 National Association of Wheat Growers
 National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors
 National Cattlemen’s Beef Association
 National Chicken Council
 National Confectioners Association
 National Cotton Council
 National Cotton Ginners Association
 National Cottonseed Products Association
 National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
 National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
 National Fastener Distributors Association
 National Fisheries Institute
 National Grain and Feed Association
 National Grange
 National Grocers Association
 National Industrial Transportation League
 National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association
 National Marine Manufacturers Association
 National Milk Producers Federation
 National Oilseed Processors Association
 National Onion Association
 National Pasta Association
 National Pecan Shellers Association
 National Pork Producers Council
 National Potato Council

National Propane Gas Association
 National Restaurant Association
 National Retail Federation
 National Sorghum Producers
 Natural Products Association
 NC Retail Merchants Association
 Nebraska Cooperative Council
 Nebraska Retail Federation
 Nevada Trucking Association
 New Hampshire Retail Association
 New Jersey Motor Truck Association
 New Jersey Retail Merchants Association
 New York New Jersey Foreign Freight
 Forwarders & Brokers Association
 North American Association of Food
 Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM)
 North American Association of Utility
 Distributors (NAAUD)
 North American Export Grain Association
 North American Home Furnishings
 Association
 North American Meat Institute
 North American Millers' Association
 North American Renderers Association
 North Dakota Grain Growers Association
 North Dakota Motor Carriers Association
 Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance
 Northwest Horticultural Council
 Ohio AgriBusiness Association
 Ohio Beverage Association
 Ohio Chamber of Commerce
 Ohio Council of Retail Merchants
 Ohio Soybean Association
 Ohio Trucking Association
 Oklahoma Beverage Association
 Oregon Business & Industry
 Orange County Business Council
 Oregon Feed & Grain Association
 Outdoor Industry Association
 Outdoor Power Equipment Institute
 Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and
 Freight Forwarders Assoc. – The PCC
 Pacific Coast Renderers Association
 Pacific Coast Seed Association
 Pacific Egg and Poultry Association
 Pennsylvania Retailers' Association
 Pet Advocacy Network
 Pet Food Institute
 Petroleum Equipment Institute
 Plumbing Manufacturers International
 Portland Cement Association
 PRINTING United Alliance
 Promotional Products Association International (PPAI)
 Railway Tie Association
 Renew Kansas Biofuels Association
 Retail Association of Maine
 Retail Association of Nevada
 Retail Council of New York State
 Retail Industry Leaders Association
 Retail Merchants of Hawaii
 Retailers Association of Massachusetts
 Rhode Island Trucking Association
 RV Industry Association
 San Diego District Customs Brokers Assn.
 SC Retail Association
 Shippers Coalition
 SNAC International
 Snowsports Industries America
 SOCMA
 South Carolina Trucking Association
 South Dakota Agri-Business Association
 South Dakota Association of Cooperatives
 South Dakota Corn Growers Association
 South Dakota Soybean Association
 Southeastern Grain & Feed Association
 Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association
 Southern California Leadership Council
 Soy Transportation Coalition
 Specialty Crop Trade Council
 Specialty Equipment Market Association
 Specialty Soya and Grains Alliance
 Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)
 Tag and Label Manufacturers Institute
 Tea Association of the U.S.A., Inc.
 Texas Ag Industries Association
 Texas Association of Manufacturers
 Texas Beverage Association
 Texas Chemical Council
 Texas Farm Bureau
 Texas Grain and Feed Association
 Texas International Produce Association
 The Association for Dressings & Sauces
 The Fashion Jewelry and Accessories Trade
 Association (FJATA)
 The Fertilizer Institute
 The Green Coffee Association
 The Sulphur Institute
 The Toy Association

The Vinyl Institute
Transportation Intermediaries Association (TIA)
Travel Goods Association (TGA)
Trucking Association of New York
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Fashion Industry Association
U.S. Meat Export Federation
United Dairymen of Arizona
United States Chamber of Commerce
USA Rice
Vinegar Institute
Virginia Agribusiness Council
Virginia Trucking Association
Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Washington Retail Association
Washington State Potato Commission
Washington State Tree Fruit Association
Washington Trucking Associations
West Virginia Retailers Association
Window & Door Manufacturers Association
Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America
Wine Institute
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association
Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association
Wood Machinery Manufacturers of America
Wyoming Business Alliance

CC: Secretary Marty Walsh, U.S. Department of Labor
Secretary Pete Buttigieg, U.S. Department of Transportation
Secretary Gina Raimondo, U.S. Department of Commerce