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