The Honoable Ted Cruz 167 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 The Honorable Maria Cantwell 511 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

As Congress pursues legislation investing in infrastructure, fostering continued economic development, and facilitating a more resilient transportation network, freight railroads are a key part of the solution. Every ton of freight moved by rail strengthens the economy, supports jobs, and saves taxpayers money.

Freight railroads invest private capital into maintaining and upgrading their infrastructure and technology across 135,000 track miles nationwide while other modes require taxpayer assistance. Freight railroads have spent more than \$830 billion on locomotives, freight cars, tracks, bridges, tunnels, and other equipment and technology since 1980. This equates to 39 cents of every dollar earned.

Private investment correlates directly with safety. The rail employee injury rate in 2023 was at an all-time low, and the train accident and hazmat accident rates are down 30% and 75%, respectively, since 2000.

Moreover, because a train can carry the load of several hundred trucks, railroads ease burdens on the nation's highways and bridges while also reducing congestion and emitting 75% fewer greenhouse gas emissions per ton-mile. As the greenest way to move freight over land, railroads account for approximately 40% of U.S. intercity freight while emitting less than 2% of transportation-related emissions.

In short, freight railroads are essential to the nation with freight demand expected to rise 50% by 2050. As such, the undersigned individuals and organizations believe any infrastructure package must enable continued, robust private-sector investment in freight rail.

When considering infrastructure legislation, Congress should include the following policies:

Prioritize Safety and Performance Through Innovation. Congress should ensure any
measure dealing with railroad operations addresses a specific need and is supported by
sound data. New measures for future implementation by USDOT should be
performance-based and avoid prescriptive operational requirements. Outdated rules
and practices limit innovation and competitiveness, standing in direct conflict with the
stated goals of new leaders in Washington.

- Improve Safety Partnership Opportunities. Increasing funding for highway-rail grade crossing projects including through the Section 130 program and the Grade Crossing Elimination program and discretionary grant programs would enable the public sector to improve highway safety along railroad crossings. Other programs such as INFRA, MEGA, and CRISI, are also important for successful PPPs. Moneys aimed towards the freight rail sector should enable government to partner with freight railroads to advance projects of mutual interest. Congress should increase funding for these activities.
- Restore the Highway Trust Fund and Modal Equity. Railroads both compete with trucking companies over freight and count them among their biggest customers. Highway congestion and deficient infrastructure hurt the supply chain. Less efficient modes of transportation receive federal subsidies in the form of artificially low fuel taxes as well as incentives to automate their operations to improve network fluidity and safety. To ensure a robust and solvent Highway Trust Fund (HTF), Congress should base HTF funding on a "user pays" principle. When general fund monies are used to pay for roads and bridges, and when heavy trucks are allowed to operate without paying the full cost of their impact, highways are incentivized for freight movement. Over time, Congress should implement a system to ensure commercial vehicles pay their full infrastructure cost, including through a mileage structure that incorporates vehicle weight.
- Reject Economic Re-Regulation. Balanced economic regulation that favors market
  principles has allowed freight railroads to continue record investment in the rail
  network. Congress should avoid changes to the U.S. Surface Transportation Board as part
  of any infrastructure bill, particularly if it included measures that would threaten rail
  investment and undermine the ability of railroads to help the nation meet other policy
  goals.
- **Support Competitive Grant Programs.** Lawmakers should pursue funding for grant programs that enable the public sector, including state and local governments, to partner with freight and passenger railroads and other modes to improve the overall fluidity of the supply chain.

Thank you for your leadership and for your continued attention to the role freight railroads play in supporting robust and sustainable economies in communities across America.

Sincerely	у,
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Supervisor Councilman

Town of Lloyd City of Schenectady

#### **North Carolina**

Marvin Arrington Commissioner Nash County

Brian Balfour Senior VP of Research John Locke Foundation

H.L. Beam Mayor City of Cherryville

Arthur Bullock Commissioner Bladen County

Sarah Conner Commissioner Town of Ayden

Sean Ewing Council Member City of Mebane

Timothy Forrest Council Member City of Holly Springs

Regina Hall Council Member City of Winston-Salem

Jason Hayes Mayor City of Lexington

Frank Iler Representative North Carolina General Assembly Tim Ivey Commissioner Scotland County

Katie Kenlan Commissioner Chatham County

Faline Locklear Commissioner Robeson County

Seth Lumpkins Commissioner City of Oxford

Terry Mann Mayor

City of Whiteville

Brooks Matthews Commissioner Harnett County

**Donald Matthews** 

Mayor Siler City

Curtis McRae Commissioner City of Oxford

Keith Moore Commissioner Carteret County

Mac Morrow Council Member City of Brevard Merilyn Newell

Mayor

City of Roxboro

Judy Sampson Harold Weinbrecht

John Tovey

Commissioner

City of Oxford

Commissioner Mayor

Robeson County Town of Cary

Phil Shepherd Gray Wilson
Representative Commissioner

North Carolina General Assembly Forsyth County

Tyler Thomas Jay Zelodis
Town Manager Commissioner
Town of Pembroke Granville County

#### **North Dakota**

Tim Mathern Austen Schauer Senator Representative

North Dakota State Senate North Dakota House of Representatives

#### Ohio

Miranda Schuller Mike Aspacher

Commissioner Mayor

Ward County City of Bowling Green

Derrick Abney Sean Beck

Council Member Council Member Village of Ada

Jack AmrheinJoy BennettPresident Pro TemCouncil MemberCity of KentCity of Mason

Nickie J. Antonio Greg Betts

Senate Democratic Leader Council Member
Ohio State Legislature City of Hilliard

Jeff A. AsburyMerisa BowersCouncil MemberCouncil PresidentCity of BedfordCity of Gahanna

Lisa Carter

**Executive Director** 

Portsmouth Area Chamber of Commerce

Jerry Echemanix Commissioner Belmont County

Greg Cassidy Council Member

City of Fostoria

Erica Fouss

Luke Feeney

City of Chillicothe

Mayor

Trustee
Orange Township

Mayor

**Bill Collins** 

City of Marion

Tony Cuda Bill Frankart
Council President Commissioner
Cleveland Heights City Council Seneca County

Denise Driehaus Commissioner Hamilton County Jeanne Gallagher Council Member City of Rocky River

Denise Driehaus Commissioner Hamilton County Vince Gianangeli Commissioner Belmont County

Matthew Dukles Council President

Village of Grafton

Christopher Grau

Mayor City of Chardon

J.P. Dutton Commissioner Belmont County Marcus Hansen Council Member City of Sylvania

Tom Duvall Council Member

City of Circleville

**Dennis Hanwell** 

Mayor

City of Medina

**Gregory Eades** 

City Council Member At Large

City of London

Richard Henderson

Mayor

Village of Waverly

Tammy Eallonardo

Economic Development Director

Ross Chillicothe Development

Paula Hicks-Hudson

Senator

Ohio Legislature

Mark Holtsberry Commissioner

**Paulding County** 

John Impellizzeri

City Council Vice President

City of Munroe Falls

Terry Johnson

Mayor

City of Germantown

Belinda Kenley Deputy Mayor

City of Centerville

Dan Lee Mayor

City of Wapakoneta

Larry Martin Council President City of Belpre

Norman Martin Council Member City of Seven Hills

Allen Mavrides

Mayor

City of Munroe Falls

Allen Mavrides

Mayor

City of Munroe Falls

Rozland McKee

Trustee

Etna Township

Donald L. Mennel

Mayor

City of Fostoria

Nicholas Molnar

Mayor

City of Macedonia

**Edward Orcutt** 

Mayor

City of Brook Park

Dale Paullus Council Member City of Fairfield

Jodie A. Perry

Mayor

City of Mansfield

Rachel Phipps Council Member City of Bowling Green

Samuel Pierce Council Member City of Troy

Margo Puffenberger Council Member City of Maumee

Tristan Rader Representative

Ohio State Legislature

Mitch Rhodus

Mayor

City of Fairfield

William V. Sherer

Mayor

City of Canton

Jeff Shetler City Engineer City of Marion Gordon Short

Council Member Service-Safety Director

**Tommy Starner** 

City of Strongsville City of Bucyrus

Sharetta Smith Karen Swartz
Mayor Administrator

City of Lima Batavia Township

Ralph Smith Bruce Truka
Council Member Mayor

City of Marion City of Bucyrus

Kent Smith Shenise Turner Senator Council Member

Ohio State Legislature City of Dayton

Margo Sommerville Monica Wilson
President Council Member
City of Akron City of Parma

Oklahoma

Brad Boles David Holt
Representative Mayor

Oklahoma House of Representatives City of Oklahoma City

Josh Driskell Derek Sparks

Vice President of Government Affairs Director of Government Relations

Tulsa Chamber of Commerce Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce

Oregon

Dick Anderson Tammy L. Dennee
Senator Executive Director

Oregon State Legislature Oregon Cattlemen's Association

Henry Balensifer III Patty Dorroh

Mayor County Commissioner

the of Monachan

City of Warrenton Harney County

Lacey BeatyCorrine DuttoMayorCouncil MemberCity of BeavertonCity of La Grande

Lew Frederick Lyle Mordhorst

Senator County Commissioner

Oregon State Legislature Polk County

Mark Gamba Nancy Nathanson Representative Representative

Oregon State Legislature Oregon State Legislature

Chris Gorsek Courtney Neron Misslin

Senator Senator

Oregon State Legislature Oregon State Legislature

Susan Hermreck Deb Patterson

Commissioner Senator

Crook County Oregon State Legislature

Heidi Lueb Khanh Pham Mayor Senator

City of Tigard Oregon State Legislature

Kevin Mannix Representative

Oregon State Legislature

## Pennsylvania

Matt Abell Yaniv Aronson

Council President Mayor

Stroudburg Borough Conshohocken Borough

Darnetta Arce Richard Black Executive Director Council Member

Lower North Philadelphia Comm. Dev. Corp. West Brownsville Borough

Mike Armanini Von Braddock Jr.
Representative Council Member

Pennsylvania House of Representatives West Brownsville Borough

Phillips A. Armstrong Jack Casey

County Executive Council Member
Lehigh County Town of McCandless

Michael Ceci Chris Kelly Mayor Mayor

Aldan Borough City of West Mifflin

W. Dean Lacey Debby King
Mayor Council Member

West Brownsville Borough West Brownsville Borough

Nicole Deary Ernest King
President & CEO Commissioner
Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce Wyoming County

Katharine DeSantis Chuck Lazzini
Public Policy Manager Commissioner

Lancaster Chamber of Commerce South Fayette Township

Marissa Donnelly Peggy Lee-Clark
Council Member Executive Director

Bangor Borough Pottstown Area Economic Development

Jonathan Ewald Joseph Manning
President Borough Manager
Charles Borough Council

Phoenixville Borough Council Charleroi Borough

Thomas Frawley Barbara A. McGinnis Executive Director Supervisor

Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority Skippack Township

Stephanie Henrick Jason Ortitay
Mayor Representative

Pottstown Borough Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Kristin Hopkins Tracy Pennycuick Borough President Senator

Charleroi Borough Pennsylvania State Senate

Samantha Kaag James Pflugh

Mayor Council Vice President

City of West Reading

West Brownsville Borough

Alex Karol Chad Reichard Commissioner Representative

Salisbury Township Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Donald Rosenberger Council President Quakertown Borough

Lisha Rowe Council President Cumru Township

Judy Schwank Senator

Pennsylvania State Senate

Brian Smith Representative

Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Mark Squilla Council Member City of Philadelphia

Andrea Stimmell Council Member

West Brownsville Borough

Mark R. Tobak Council President

West Brownsville Borough

Irvin P. Toth
Council Member

West Brownsville Borough

# **South Carolina**

Terry Alexander Representative South Carolina Legislature

Johnnie McLendon Council Member Chesterfield County

Tony Nelson Council Member City of Chester Lisa Talbert Mayor

City of Easley

Dennis Thompson Council Member Hampton County

#### **South Dakota**

Helene Duhamel Senator South Dakota State Senate

Josephine Garcia Representative South Dakota House of Representatives

Roy Lindsay Mayor City of Madison Clark Sowers Council Member City of Belle Fourche

David Thiesse Commissioner Clay County

Jim D. Thompson Council Member City of Sturgis Kadyn Wittman Representative South Dakota House of Representatives

#### **Tennessee**

BW Beasley Mayor

City of Milan

Josh Blair Commissioner City of Alcoa

Richard Briggs Senator

**Tennessee General Assembly** 

Anna Childress Commissioner Marshall County

Larry Green Commissioner Dekalb County

**Barry Hutcherson** 

Mayor

**Chester County** 

Tim Isbel Commissioner Anderson County

Cyril Jefferson Mayor

City of High Point

JoAnna Jinks Commissioner City of Sweetwater Kelly Keisling Representative

Tennessee General Assembly

Indya Kincannon

Mayor

City of Knoxville

Becky Massey

Senator

**Tennessee General Assembly** 

Dennis Powers Representative

**Tennessee General Assembly** 

Walter Smothers Commissioner Carroll County

Elaine Spalding President

**Rowan County Chamber of Commerce** 

Gary Tippett Commissioner Madison County

Steve Walls Commissioner Morgan County

#### **Texas**

**Chris Armacost** 

Mayor

City of Hitchcock

Adrian Cannady President & CEO

Temple Economic Development Corporation

Michael Evans

Mayor

City of Mansfield

Adrian Garcia Commissioner

**Harris County** 

Bret Gardella Executive Director

Henderson Texas Economic Development

TJ Gilmore Mayor

City of Lewisville

Hoppy Haden County Judge

**Caldwell County** 

Kelly Hall

President & CEO

Longview Area Chamber of Commerce

Tony Kaai President

**Denison Development Alliance** 

Atwood Kenjura

Mayor

City of Brenham

Don McBurnett

Council Member

City of Duncanville

Roger McLane

County Judge

Panola County

Mark Meuth

Commissioner

**Bastrop County** 

Tony Moline

President & CEO

Cedar Park Chamber of Commerce

Ricardo Mora

President & CEO

El Paso Chamber

Jason Nelson

Council Member

City of Kaufman

Josh Owens

President & CEO

Galveston Economic Dev. Partnership

Sean Patty

**Executive Director** 

Hondo EDC

**Doug Peters** 

President & CEO

Abilene Chamber of Commerce

Jose Portillo Jr.

County Judge

**Presidio County** 

Teddy Reel Mayor

City of Commerce

Stacia Runnels

Executive Director

Greater Marshall Chamber of Commerce

Amy Skicki

President & CEO

**Bay Area Houston Transportation** 

Partnership (BayTran)

Diana Theall
President & CEO

Denison Area Chamber of Commerce

Terry Thomas Mayor Pro Tem City of Greenville

#### Utah

Gil Almquist Commissioner Washington County

**Brett Anderson** 

Mayor

City of Farmington

Nanette Billings

Mayor

**Hurricane City** 

Dell T. Butterfield Council Member City of West Bountiful

Jim Dunnigan

Representative

Utah State Legislature

Jessica Trew

**Executive Director** 

Hillsboro Economic Development

Corporation

Chris Wallace President & CEO

**North Texas Commission** 

Ben White

President & CEO

**Taylor Economic Development Corporation** 

Lori Williams
President & CEO

Mansfield Area Chamber of Commerce

Jacob Holdaway City Council Vineyard City

Gay Lynn Bennion Representative

**Utah State Legislature** 

Andy Pierucci Council Member City of Riverton

Mark Preece Council Member City of West Bountiful

Julie Robertson

Syracuse City Councilwoman

City of Syracuse

Dakota Wurth Council Member City of Clearfield

### Vermont

Mary Howard Representative

Vermont House of Representatives

James Jim Masland Representative

**Vermont House of Representatives** 

Erik Johnson Alderperson

City of St. Albans

Kate McCann Representative

**Vermont House of Representatives** 

Virginia

Jim Andrews Council Member

**Albemarle County** 

Terry Austin Delegate

Virginia General Assembly

Susan Cunningham Board Member Arlington County

Creigh Deeds Senator

Virginia General Assembly

Sylvia Glass District Supervisor Loudon County Tim Smith Mayor

City of St. Albans

Candice White Representative

Vermont House of Representatives

William Greer Representative

Vermont House of Representatives

Bill Harris Vice-Mayor

City of Smithtown

Patricia King Council Member City of Chesapeake

Daryl Moore Vice-Mayor City of Manassas

Phazhon Nash Council Member City of Roanoke

Robert Orrock Delegate

Virginia General Assembly

Ellen Robertson Council Member City of Richmod Rosemary Wilson Council Member City of Virginia Beach

Renée Turk Mayor City of Salem

# Washington

James Alberson Council President

**Renton City** 

Tami Beaumont Council Member City of Monroe

Angela Birney Mayor City of Redmond

Frank Boykin Council Member City of University Place

Terry Carter Mayor City of Bonney Lake

Jerome Delvin Commissioner Benton County

Paul Dillon Council Member City of Spokane

Erin Erdman
City Manager
City of Kennewick

James Fletcher

Mayor

City of Cashmere

Cassie Franklin

Mayor

City of Everett

Kevin Hanford Council Member City of Monroe

John Hodkinson

Mayor Union City

Drew Hyer Sheriff

**Garfield County** 

Rob Karlinsey City Manager City of Moses Lake

Tony Ketchum

Mayor

City of Chehalis

Mari Leavitt Representative

Washington State Legislature

Jon Nehring David Schaffert Mayor President & CEO

City of Marysville Thurston County Chamber

Douglas Orr Don E. Vanney Mayor Mayor

City of Aberdeen City of Arlington

Julia Reed Jonathan Ventura Representative Chief of Police

Washington State Legislature City of Arlington Police Department

Steph Rees Judy Warnick
President & CEO Senator

Burlington Chamber of Commerce Washington State Legislature

Chris Roberts Richard Wills

Mayor City Council Member
City of Shoreline City of Ocean Shores

**West Virginia** 

James BoggsSean HornbuckleCounty AdministratorHouse Minority LeaderWayne County CommissionWest Virginia Legislature

Jeff BroadwaterGary HowellCity AdministratorDelegate

City of Keyser West Virginia Legislature

Steve Catlett Bill Javins

Vice-President Council Member
Berkeley County Commission City of Nitro

Scot C. Heckert Christina Murphy
Delegate Grants Department

West Virginia Legislature Harrison County Commission

Frederick "Rick" Hillenbrand Travis Thompson

Delegate President

West Virginia Legislature Wayne County Commission

Jack David Woodrum Senator West Virginia Legislature

# Wisconsin

Tiffany Brault
Supervisor
Fond du Lac County

Gaile Burchill Jason Matthys
Supervisor Administrative Coordinator
Sauk County Pierce County

Sky Capriolo Matthew McGovern Supervisor Trustee

Thomas Lund

**Brown County** 

Supervisor

Milwaukee County Village of Shorewood

Dave Hemmer Joshua Miller
Mayor Council Member
City of Prairie Du Chien City of Eau Claire

Susan Hendrickson Howard Miller
Supervisor Supervisor
Douglas County Winnebago County

Jesse James Sharlen Moore
Senator Alderwoman
Wisconsin Senate City of Milwaukee

Dana Johnson Dave Murphy Supervisor Representative

Outagamie County Wisconsin State Assembly

Tara Johnson Donald Nussbaum Representative Supervisor

Wisconsin State Assembly Winnebago County

Rob Kreibich Mark D. O'Connell Representative President & CEO

Wisconsin State Assembly Wisconsin Counties Association

Dale Oppermann

Mayor

City of Jefferson

Satya Rhodes-Conway

Mayor

City of Madison

Brian Schell Alderman

City of Kaukauna

Jeffrey D. Schleif

County Board Chairman Washington County

Tim Sondelski Supervisor

**Marathon County** 

Bob Swanson Supervisor

**Eau Claire County** 

Chris J. Walter, P.E. City Engineer

City of Hartford

Wisconsin Towns Association

# **Wyoming**

Michael Bond Council Member City of Casper

.

Pete Laybourn Council Member City of Cheyenne Robert A. Wharff Representative

State of Wyoming Legislature

CC: Members of the United States Senate