



July 22, 2024

The Honorable Rob Menendez
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Menendez,

I recently signed a group letter (attached) with over 200 business groups nationwide to the U.S. EPA in opposition to a proposal by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) mandating zero emissions locomotives. The time frame on this regulation is untenable. **While this is being driven by California it could open the door for other states to enact it as well.** This is problematic as freight rail runs on a national interconnected network. Nearly three quarters of the locomotive fleet operates at some point in California. Additionally, the rule would ban the operation of any locomotive that is 23 years or older from operating in California, that's over 25,000 locomotives that would be obsolete. No state should be able to regulate the national freight network.

There should be a pragmatic path to decarbonization with input from business at a pace that respects the current state of zero emission technology and with operational reality in mind. Such an aggressive timeline is a cause for concern and will likely fail if rushed to market. A region like ours that is so reliant on transportation must strive to strike the right balance.

As a member of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee I hope you see the challenges that this proposal brings not only to the locomotive fleet as this technology is not yet commercially viable but also to the demands of supporting infrastructure that would be required nationally. We have seen the electrical grid taxed without another commercial industry relying upon it. Please reject this proposal and consider contacting EPA Administrator Regan to do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chip Hallock".

Chip Hallock
President & CEO
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