

November 30, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Vote “Yes” on H.J. Res. 100

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Republican Leader McConnell,

HR Policy Association supports the bipartisan H.J. Res.100 to implement the Tentative Agreement that was negotiated between the administration and the rail labor unions and railroads and urges you to vote “Yes” on the resolution. Absent congressional intervention, a freight rail shutdown could cost the economy \$2 billion a day, with negative ramifications for U.S. businesses, employees, consumers, and the economy.

HR Policy Association represents the most senior human resource executives in more than 400 of the largest companies in the United States. Collectively, these companies employ more than 10 million employees in the United States, nearly nine percent of the private sector workforce, and 20 million employees worldwide.

On September 15, the major freight railroads, and the leadership for 12 labor unions reached Tentative Agreements on a new long-term contract. This deal was reached following years of negotiations, including efforts by federal mediators, President Biden’s Presidential Emergency Board, as well as further negotiations by the parties and the President. The President’s PEB, made up of experienced neutral arbiters who have studied the rail industry and its collective bargaining history, listened to many hours of testimony from railroads and unions, reviewed hundreds of pages of submitted materials, including current benefits and took all of this into account when making its final recommendations in the Tentative Agreement.

At this stage, it would be inappropriate for Congress to amend the September 15 Tentative Agreement brokered by the Biden Administration, which was agreed to by 8 of 12 unions representing a majority of railroad workers. To add, amending the Tentative Agreement now sets a negative precedent, undermines years of collective bargaining history, and would increase the risk of future strikes by rewarding the tactics of a minority of hold-out unions.

The HR Policy Association appreciates your attention to this critical issue and urges you to vote “Yes” on H.J. Res. 100 to avert a rail strike and reject any procedural votes that would amend the terms of the Tentative Agreement.

Sincerely,



Chatrane Birbal
Vice President, Government Relations
HR Policy Association

cc: Members of the U.S. Senate