



Seth Waugh
Vice President – Government Relations

November 29, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Republican Leader McConnell, and Republican Leader McCarthy:

I am writing today on behalf of the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors (NAW) to urge you to bring forward legislation to prevent a strike between the nation's major freight railroads and the 12 labor unions that represent rail workers across the country.

NAW is the "national voice of wholesale distribution," an association comprised of employers of all sizes and national, regional, state, and local line-of-trade associations spanning the \$8.1 trillion wholesale distribution industry that employs almost 6 million workers in the United States. Approximately 35,000 enterprises with almost 150,000 places of business in all 50 states and the District of Columbia are affiliated with NAW.

We were encouraged to hear President Biden's request that Congress swiftly act under their authority to intervene and prevent a national rail strike before the end of the current "status quo" period ends on December 9, 2022. We agree with President Biden that the tentative agreement reached between all sides in September should be implemented through Congressional action without any modifications. The September tentative agreement, which was negotiated in good faith, and was mediated by members of the President's Cabinet, includes significant increases in wages, improved healthcare benefits, and increased medical leave.

As you are well aware, should Congress fail to prevent a major rail strike, it would cost the United States economy at least \$2 billion daily. Other estimates predict that should a major rail strike last one month; it would lead to at least a 1% decline in our nation's GDP. At this time, when all Americans and main street businesses are facing rising inflation, labor shortages, and a supply chain under tremendous pressure as it recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, a major rail strike would be an economic catastrophe.

That is why on behalf of NAW member companies and their employers, we again implore you to immediately exert your Congressional authority to adopt the September tentative agreement and prevent a devastating rail strike.

Sincerely,

Seth Waugh
Vice President – Government Relations
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WHOLESALER-DISTRIBUTORS

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