



Leadership is our business

Associated Industries of Massachusetts  
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October 8, 2015

The Honorable Senator Thune  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C., 20510

Re: Upcoming deadline for railroads to install Positive Train Control (PTC)

Dear Senator Thune,

Associated Industries of Massachusetts (“AIM”) wishes to express its views on the upcoming December 31, 2015 deadline under the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 for railroads to implement Positive Train Control (PTC).

AIM’s mission is to promote the prosperity of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by improving the economic climate, proactively advocating fair and equitable public policy, and providing relevant, reliable information and excellent services. AIM is concerned that its thousands of members throughout the state and the economy of Massachusetts will be significantly impacted should the deadline to implement PTC not be extended.

As you know, under the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008, railroads are required to implement Positive Train Control (PTC) by December 31, 2015. The Class I railroads, the Federal Railroad Administration, and the U.S. Government Accountability Office have all said that the December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 deadline for PTC implementation is unattainable. If Congress fails to grant an extension of the PTC requirement there is a great risk that moving passengers and freight by rail might come to a grinding halt.

The railroad industry is making steady progress and is committed to installing PTC to help ensure that shipping and travel by rail is as safe as possible. The harmful effects will start well before the deadline passes. Some negative impacts are already being felt as affected freight rail customer must prepare well in advance of such a massive potential service disruption.

Massachusetts chemistry, with sales of \$9 billion, is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest manufacturing industry in the state and provides 16,740 direct jobs. Any interruption in the delivery of our members’ products would have significant economic and societal consequences, including putting public health at risk. Water treatment facilities that rely on routine delivery of chlorine would likely experience service interruptions or stoppage. Many other life altering products, such as medical supplies and

devices, building materials, plastics, and fuels would also be impacted if reliable rail service is interrupted. Congress must act immediately to provide for a reasonable, workable extension for PTC to avoid the potentially dire consequences for the U.S. economy that would come with such a shutdown.

AIM appreciates your attention to this issue and urges you to work with your colleagues to pass a reasonable extension that will keep the trains running and will allow the railroads to successfully install PTC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert A. Rio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Robert A. Rio, Esq.  
Senior Vice President and Counsel  
Associated Industries of Massachusetts

CC: The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Warren  
The Honorable Senator Edward Markey