

October 21, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Democratic Leader
S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

I write on behalf of the fertilizer industry to urge expedited Congressional action on bipartisan-bicameral legislation (Section 7014 of H.R. 3763) to extend the Positive Train Control (PTC) deadline.

The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) represents companies that are engaged in all aspects of the fertilizer supply chain. Our members play a key role in producing and distributing vital nutrients that nourish crops to meet the global demand for food, fiber, and fuel. A rail stoppage, which we are facing if the PTC deadline is not extended this month, will make it impossible for TFI's members to deliver these necessary crop nutrients to farmers.

It is broadly understood that rail carriers need more time to comply with the PTC mandate. Freight railroads have also stated they will not carry certain materials, including anhydrous ammonia, if the PTC deadline is not extended. For the agriculture community, this is a food security issue. Anhydrous ammonia is one of the most commonly used fertilizers and is the building block for 80 percent of the fertilizers used in the United States. Forty to sixty percent of crop yields are attributable to fertilizer. Without it, it is impossible for our nation's farmers to produce \$225 billion worth of crops that they provide for us annually.

Logistical considerations make it urgent that Congress pass an extension of the PTC deadline as soon as possible. The impact on the fertilizer industry and the broader economy starts to happen in November. In fact, data from the American Chemistry Council indicates that real GDP growth will be reduced by 2.6% and \$30 billion would be pulled out of the economy in the first quarter alone, causing a loss of 700,000 jobs.

TFI supports and is pleased the House Highway bill, H.R. 3763, includes bipartisan-bicameral language to address the PTC deadline. If Congress cannot complete the Highway bill before the end of the month, it is urgent that Section 7014 of H.R. 3763 be enacted as soon as possible, as part of an extension of surface transportation programs (MAP-21 extension), which must be passed by Oct. 29th, or by other means.

Please work with your colleagues to ensure the PTC deadline is addressed this month. At this time, being part of a MAP-21 extension appears to be the most efficient way to prevent an economic catastrophe.

Sincerely,



Chris Jahn
President
The Fertilizer Institute