

DELAWARE STATE  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Mark S. Stellini, Chairman  
A. Richard Heffron, President

October 20, 2015

The Honorable Senator Chris Coons  
127A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coons:

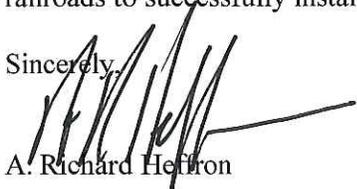
As you know, under the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008, railroads are required to implement Positive Train Control (PTC) by December 31, 2015. The Class I railroads, the Federal Railroad Administration, and the U.S. Government Accountability Office have all said that the December 31, 2015 deadline 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.

Delaware chemistry, with sales of \$10.4 billion, is the largest manufacturing industry in the state, providing 2,620 direct jobs and 5,050 related 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, impacting the quality of the water we drink and the waste water we return to the environment. 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. The Delaware State Chamber of Commerce 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. Richard Heffron

CC: The Honorable Senator Tom Carper  
The Honorable Senator John Thune

DELAWARE STATE  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Mark S. Stellini, Chairman  
A. Richard Heffron, President

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The Honorable Senator Tom Carper  
513 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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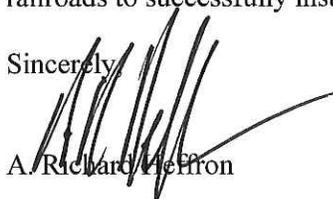
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511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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