



October 15, 2015

The Honorable Senator Bob Casey
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C., 20510

Dear Senator Casey,

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 deadline for PTC implementation is unattainable. In actuality, railroads have stated they will begin shutting down November 1st in order to be in compliance by the December 31st deadline. 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.

Pennsylvania chemistry, with sales of \$22.2 billion, is the fourth largest manufacturing industry in the state, receiving 5,550,000 tons of chemical products by rail each year. 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.

The deadline for implementing PTC is rapidly approaching and action is required to avoid this potentially devastating interruption to commerce. The Pennsylvania Chemical Industry Council 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 'Jeff Logan'.

Jeff Logan
President
Pennsylvania Chemical Industry Council

CC: The Honorable Senator John Thune
The Honorable Senator Bill Nelson

