

NEVADA

Mining Association

September 25, 2015

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The Honorable Dean Heller
Senator, State of Nevada
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Amendment to the Rail Safety Transportation Act of 2008

Dear Senator Heller:


On behalf of the Nevada Mining Association and its more than 400 members, I am writing to urge you to support an extension of deadline for Positive Train Control requirements as required by the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008. As you know, this measure required that all rail carriers who transport toxic-by-inhalation materials to install new technologies, "positive train control," by the end of this year. Unfortunately, rail carriers have been heretofore unable to meet these deadlines and are seeking a deadline extension to at least 2018.

At the Nevada Mining Association we prioritize safety above every aspect of the business. We simply cannot get any work done without doing so safely. The industry certainly recognizes the importance of using this cutting-edge technology to ensure these chemicals are transported as safely as possible. Many mining operations helped the rail industry develop these technologies and implement the act.

Nevertheless, should the act go into effect prematurely, Nevada Mines would be cut off from elements indispensable to the mining and milling process. Should this deadline fail, and our critical supply chain line down, mines would not have access to many of the reagents needed to produce the minerals essential to millions of Americans' daily life. Nearly 23,000 Nevadans rely on the mining industry for employment, and Nevada's economy receives more than \$8 billion in benefit. I would ask that you consider this information should the opportunity arise to cast a vote on this matter.

We believe the rail industry has acted in good faith to comply with RSTA's requirements by investing billions of dollars to conduct more accurate geo-mapping, install new switches, and retrofit tens of thousands of trains. Additional time would allow operators to ensure the system is deployed in a workable and responsible manner, and would protect the supply lines on which Nevadans rely.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to our state.



Dana Bennett, Ph.D.
President