



**TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION**

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October 22, 2015

The Honorable John Thune  
Chairman  
Senate Commerce, Science, &  
Transportation Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
Ranking Member  
Senate Commerce, Science, &  
Transportation Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson,

The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), the leading trade association for global manufacturers, vendors, and suppliers of information and communications technology (ICT), and its members write in support of your efforts extend the deadline for the rail industry to fully implement Positive Train Control (PTC) technology. We are concerned that, without Congressional approval of an extension, large portions of the U.S. railroad system will be forced to shut down operations.

As of today, no railroad company has said they will be able to meet the December 31, 2015 deadline to have PTC fully implemented. The rail transportation system is an integral component of business operations in America. Therefore, a shutdown of large segments of the nation's freight rail network would have broad and long lasting consequences.

TIA members, as manufacturers and suppliers of an array of ICT products rely heavily on the freight rail system for the delivery and distribution of their goods. We are concerned about the negative impact interrupted rail service will have on the ability to efficiently sustain supply chain operations in certain aspects of the telecommunications marketplace, which is a major contributor of growth to the U.S. Economy.

Therefore, we encourage Congress to pass legislation to ensure that rail service will not be disrupted for American customers and businesses by extending the PTC implementation deadline. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  


Scott Belcher  
Chief Executive Officer  
Telecommunications Industry Association