



Agribusiness Association of Iowa

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October 1, 2015

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Positive Train Control Deadline

Dear Senator Thune:

Oh behalf of the Agribusiness Association of Iowa and our 1,200 members, we write you this letter in support of your efforts for Congress to pass an extension to the December 31, 2015, deadline of the Positive Train Control (PTC).

As you are aware the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) report to Congress shows that most railroads will miss this implementation deadline. In addition, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) outlined in 2013 that this deadline for national implementation is not realistic.

We believe that the national railways and other state transportation entities who have written letters asking for a PTC extension on the implementation should not be ignored. Absent an extension of the PTC deadline, these railways will not transport certain agricultural chemicals that are classified as toxic-by-inhalation hazardous (TIH) materials, such as anhydrous ammonia and chlorine, after December 31st.

The impact to the nationwide agricultural industry will be devastating if these railroads will not transport the materials that Iowa needs. If Congress does not extend the deadline for PTC, farmers will not be able to get the fertilizer they need, when they need it. Should Congress fail to act before the end of 2015, rail shipments of needed farming supplies will come to a halt, severely crippling the supply chain and the availability of this essential nutrient to farmers.

AAI is very supportive of a multi-year extension and we feel that it would be a waste of resources if the current deadline remains in effect; as the FRA would levy fines for non-compliance and these fines would be counterproductive to the railroad efforts for implementation of PTC.

We appreciate your efforts and are encouraged by your leadership on the PTC deadline issue. We also applaud your emphasis on importance of safety to our nation's rail systems and to the public

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SUPPORTIVE LETTER
SUBMITTED TO SENATOR THUNE

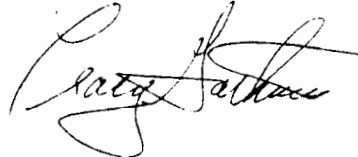
commuters. There is no one-size fits all version of PTC for commuter rail systems. With that we strongly support the provision in the recently approved DRIVE Act that would provide a three-year extension to the deadline for implantation of the PTC on rail roads.

We hope that Congress will address the concerns of the agricultural industry in regards to this national implementation deadline and can agree on and extension as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Joel Brinkmeyer
Agribusiness Association of Iowa
CEO



Tracy Gathman
AAI Board of Directors
Chairman

CC:

The Honorable Joni Ernst
The Honorable Chuck Grassley
The Honorable Bill Nelson
The Honorable Deb Fischer
The Honorable Anthony Foxx, United States Secretary of Transportation
The Honorable Sarah Feinberg, Acting Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration
The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott III, Chairman, Surface Transportation Board
The Honorable Ann D. Begeman, Vice Chairman, Surface Transportation Board
The Honorable Deb Miller, Board Member, Surface Transportation Board

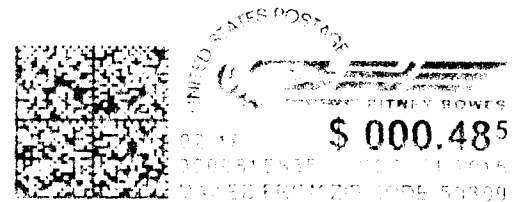
Kevin Gray, Chairman, AAI Transportation Committee



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