



November 4, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Rail strike threatens provision of safe drinking water, wastewater

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations that provide essential drinking and wastewater services to the American people, we ask you to continue working urgently to produce a settlement among railway companies and rail unions to avert a strike. A stoppage of rail service in the United States would have a catastrophic effect on the ability of water utilities to treat drinking water and wastewater and to perform other water treatment services. This would present a significant threat to human health and to the health of the environment as it would affect our members' ability to provide safe drinking water and wastewater treatment to significant portions of the United States.

The critical products used to disinfect and treat water are typically delivered to distributors by rail, who then ship it to utilities over roadways.

We are grateful for the work your administration has done so far to avoid a nationwide rail strike. The good work done so far is reflected in six unions having agreed to the pact developed under the Presidential Emergency Board. However, with two unions voting against the agreement, and other unions unlikely to cross picket lines, the threat of a strike remains. In addition, we anticipate that rail companies will begin slowing down shipment of water treatment products in advance of an actual strike in order to avoid stranding shipped products in unsecured locations.

Again, we are grateful for the work done so far, but strongly urge you to continue to work with the rail companies and unions to avoid a strike and avoid further supply chain challenges for critical water disinfection and treatment products.

Sincerely,

G. Tracy Mehan III,  
Executive Director, Government Affairs  
American Water Works Association

Rob Powelson  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
National Association of Water Companies

Tom Dobbins  
Chief Executive Officer  
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies

Matthew Holmes  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Rural Water Association

Adam Krantz  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies

Walter Marlowe  
Executive Director  
Water Environment Federation