



March 2, 2016

Hon. John Thune, Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Bill Nelson, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
425 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Bill Shuster, Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Peter DeFazio, Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Sirs:

Thanks to your efforts, Congress passed a series of measures in 2015 that will help ensure freight railroads continue in their vital role as the strong backbone of the American economy. We applaud you and your colleagues who supported these measures and we thank you for your leadership.

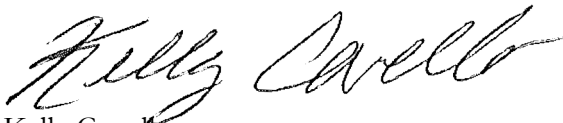
Congressional actions providing a realistic timetable for implementing positive train control, enhancing safety requirements for tank cars carrying flammable liquids, extending the short line tax credit, and streamlining the permitting process for rail infrastructure projects will provide tangible benefits to communities across the United States that depend on railroads to connect them to the global economy.

Privately owned freight railroads plan to spend and invest \$26 billion in the rail network in 2016 to continue their strong record of providing safe and affordable freight transportation service to American farms, manufacturers and consumers. Thanks to balanced federal policies, railroads sustain over one million jobs across the economy and ensure that the goods essential to our daily lives – from food and clothing and to energy and water treatment chemicals – are moved efficiently and safely.

The efficiency of the North American rail network also saves fuel, decreases pollution and eases the burden on taxpayers by reducing wear and tear on roads and bridges.

Thank you once again for your leadership. We ask that you continue to keep the importance of freight rail to our communities in the front of your mind as you consider transportation legislation in 2016 and in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



Kelly Covelto
President
Almond Hullers & Processors Association
Ripon, CA



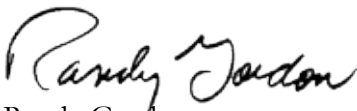
Gurbax Sahota
President & CEO
CA Association for Local Economic Devel.
Sacramento, CA



Michael Rogge
Policy Director, Environmental Quality
CA Manufacturers & Technology Assoc.
Sacramento, CA



Paul Granillo
President & CEO
Inland Empire Economic Partnership
San Bernardino, CA



Randy Gordon
President & CEO
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Long Beach, CA



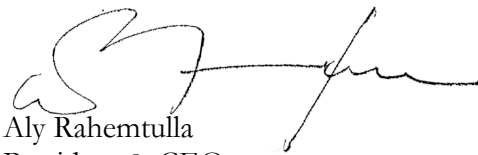
Gary Toebben
President & CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles, CA



Michael Ammann
President & CEO
San Joaquin Partnership
Stockton, CA



Rod Bockenfeld
District 3
Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners
Littleton, CO



Aly Rahemtulla
President & CEO
BSM Wireless Inc.
Denver, CO



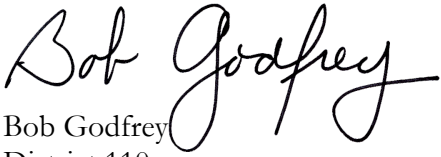
Brian Elgart
Director, Sales
EVRAZ North America
Pueblo, CO



Jack Brinkhoff
Mayor
Town of Wellington
Wellington, CO



Sean Conway
Commissioner
Weld County
Greeley, CO



Bob Godfrey
District 110
Connecticut House of Representatives
Danbury, CT



Michael McLachlan
District 24
Connecticut State Senate
Danbury, CT



Peter Penczer
Chairman
Fairfield Economic Devel. Commission
Fairfield, CT



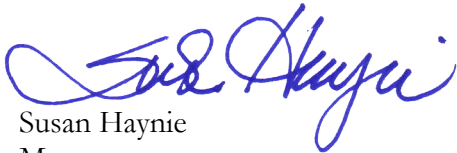
Rick Dunne
Executive Director
Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
Waterbury, CT



Brewster Bevis
Senior VP of State & Federal Affairs
Associated Industries of Florida
Tallahassee, FL



Chip LaMarca
District 4
Broward County Commission
Fort Lauderdale, FL



Susan Haynie
Mayor
City of Boca Raton
Boca Raton, FL



Aaron Bean
District 4
Florida State Senate
Fernandina Beach, FL



Cyndi Jantomaso
CEO
Haines City Economic Devel. Council
Haines City, FL



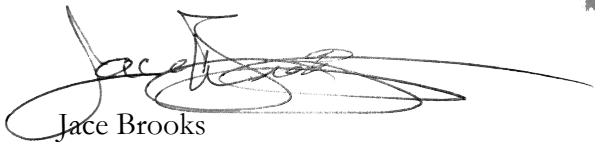
Michelle Morgan
District 4
Carroll County Board of Commissioners
Carrollton, GA



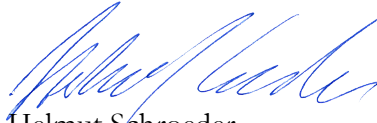
Brett Harrell
District 106
Georgia House of Representatives
Snellville, GA



Seth Millican
Executive Director
Georgia Transportation Alliance
Atlanta, GA



Jace Brooks
District 1
Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners
Suwanee, GA



Helmut Schroeder
President
Railquip, Inc.
Atlanta, GA



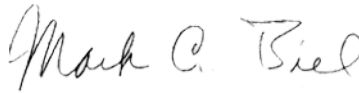
Eric Dial
Mayor
Town of Tyrone
Tyrone, GA



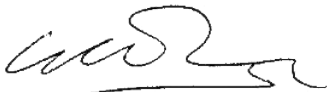
Patrick Ameen
Vice President Industry Relations
Amsted Rail Company, Inc.
Chicago, IL



Brendan Shaw
EVP of Sales
BSM Wireless Inc.
Downers Grove, IL



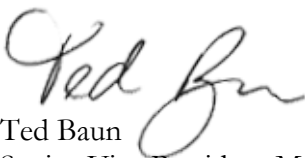
Mark Biel
Executive Director
Chemical Industry Council of Illinois
Des Plaines, IL



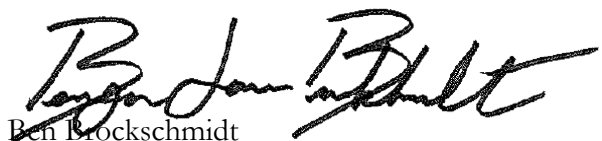
Michael Reeve
Vice President, Government Relations
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
Chicago, IL



Jerry Reed
Executive Vice President - Long Products
EVRAZ North America
Chicago, IL



Ted Baun
Senior Vice President Marketing & Sales
FreightCar America, Inc.
Chicago, IL



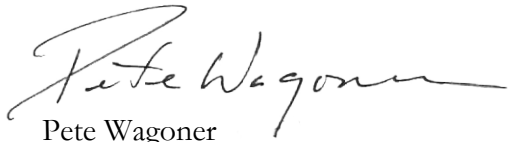
Ben Brockschmidt
Executive Director
Illinois Chamber Infrastructure Council
Chicago, IL



Jerry Deck
Associate Director of Government Affairs
Illinois Manufacturers' Association
Springfield, IL



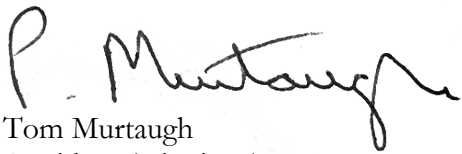
Michael Heilmann
Executive Vice President
Wi-Tronix, LLC
Bolingbrook, IL



Pete Wagoner
Chairman
Camden-Flora Rail Corridor Commission
Flora, IN



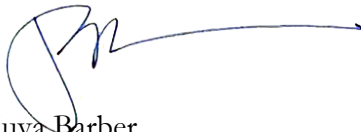
Randy Truitt
District 26
Indiana House of Representatives
West Lafayette, IN



Tom Murtaugh
President (District 3)
Tippecanoe County Board of Commissioners
Lafayette, IN



Tyler Owen
Executive Vice President
Owen Industries
Carter Lake, IA



Juva Barber
Executive Director
Kentuckians for Better Transportation
Louisville, KY



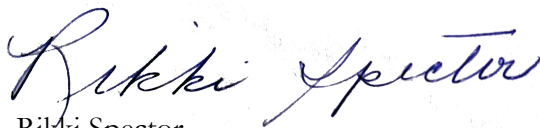
Hal Goode
President / CEO
Kentucky Association for Economic Devel.
Frankfort, KY



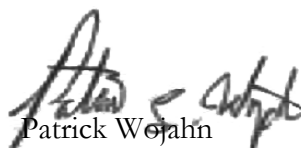
Craig King
President and CEO
R. J. Corman Railroad Group, LLC
Nicholasville, KY



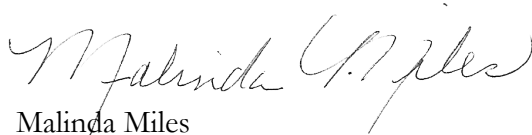
John Spain
Executive Vice President
Baton Rouge Area Foundation
Baton Rouge, LA



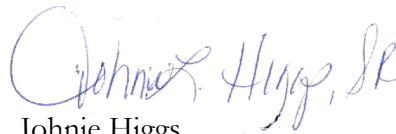
Rikki Spector
District 5
Baltimore City Council
Baltimore, MD



Patrick Wojahn
Mayor
City of College Park
College Park, MD



Malinda Miles
Mayor
City of Mount Rainier
Mount Rainier, MD



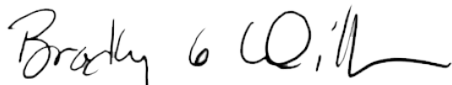
Johnie Higgs
Councilman At-Large
City of Seat Pleasant
Seat Pleasant, MD



Donald C. Fry
President & CEO
Greater Baltimore Committee
Baltimore, MD



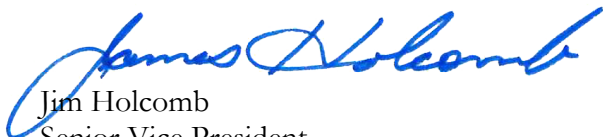
Chuck Squires
Risk & Government Relations Manager
Cooperative Elevator Co.
Pigeon, MI



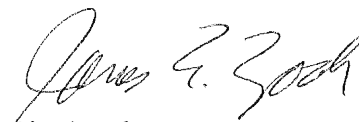
Brad Williams
Vice President Government Relations
Detroit Regional Chamber
Detroit, MI



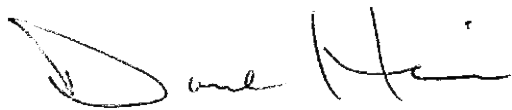
Jim Byrum
President
Michigan Agri-Business Association
East Lansing, MI



Jim Holcomb
Senior Vice President
Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Lansing, MI



Jim Zook
Executive Director
Michigan Corn Growers Association
Lansing, MI



Dave Heins
General Manager
Miller Truck & Storage Co.
Jackson, MI



Jennifer Kriger
Marketing Manager
Trinity Equipment Co.
Muskegon, MI



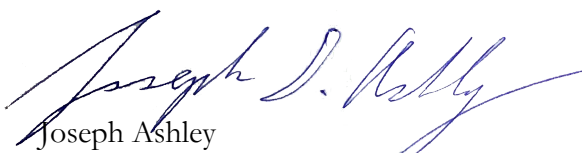
Bill Morren
General Manager
US Trackworks, LLC
Wayland, MI



Emily Pugh
Transportation & Infra Policy Analyst
Association of Minnesota Counties
Saint Paul, MN



Nels Ojard
President / CEO
Krech Ojard & Associates, Inc.
Duluth, MN



Joseph Ashley
Vice President and General Manager
Railway Equipment Company
Minneapolis, MN



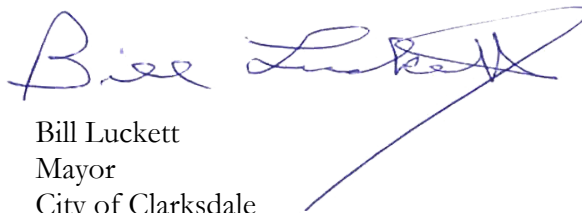
James Hansen
Vice President, Freight Rail Infrastructure
RailWorks
Lakeville, MN



Matt Kramer
President / CEO
Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce
Saint Paul, MN



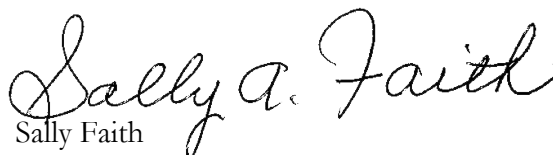
Todd Friesen
President and COO
Travelliance
Minnetonka, MN



Bill Luckett
Mayor
City of Clarksdale
Clarksdale, MS



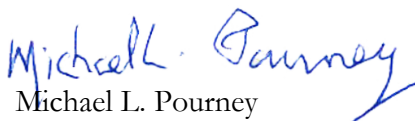
Mark Stidham
City Administrator
City of Dexter
Dexter, MO



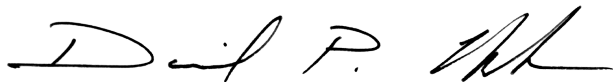
Sally Faith
Mayor
City of St. Charles
St. Charles, MO



Luann Ridgeway
Eastern Commissioner
Clay County Commission
Liberty, MO



Michael L. Purney
President & CEO
Gross & Janes Co.
Kirkwood, MO



Daniel Mehan
President and CEO
Missouri Chamber of Commerce
Jefferson City, MO



Shelley Keeney Taylor
District 145
Missouri House of Representatives
Marble Hill, MO



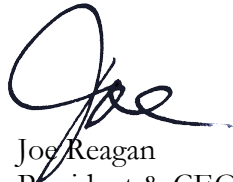
David Pearce
District 21
Missouri State Senate
Warrensburg, MO



Michael Collins
President & CEO
Port KC
Kansas City, MO



Scott Grass
Vice President
RCL Wiring, LP
Sedalia, MO




Joe Reagan
President & CEO
St. Louis Regional Chamber of Commerce
St. Louis, MO



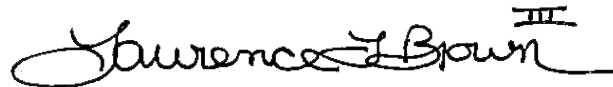
Scott Goehri
Senior Vice President
HDR, Inc.
Omaha, NE



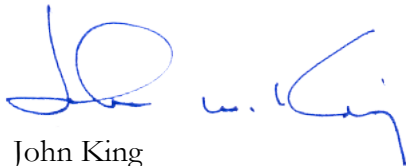
Tray Abney
Director of Government Relations
Chamber of Reno, Sparks, and Northern NV
Reno, NV



Allan Litman
Mayor
City of Mesquite
Mesquite, NV



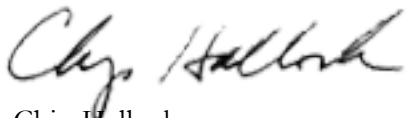
Lawrence L. Brown III
Vice Chair
Clark County Commission
Clark County, NV



John King
Freeholder
Hunterdon County Board of Freeholders
Raritan Township, NJ



Gordon Johnson
District 37
New Jersey State Assembly
Teaneck, NJ



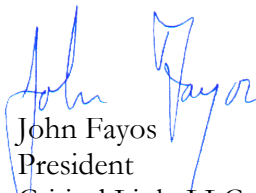
Chip Hallock
President & CEO
Newark Regional Business Partnership
Newark, NJ



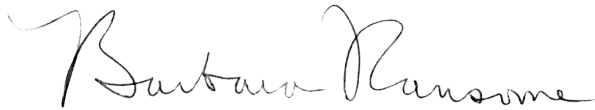
Wayne Johnson
District 5
Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners
Albuquerque, NM



Terri Cole
President and CEO
Greater Albuquerque Chamber
Albuquerque, NM



John Fayos
President
Critical Link, LLC
Syracuse, NY



Barbara Ransome
Director of Operations
Greater Port Jefferson Chamber
Port Jefferson, NY



Tracey Lukasik
Executive Director
Ken-Ton Chamber of Commerce
Kenmore, NY



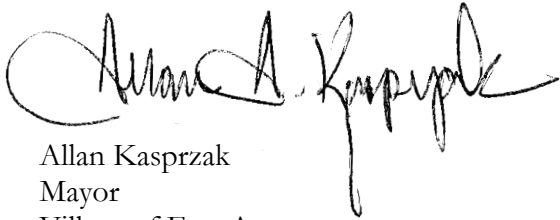
Fred Thiele
District 1
New York State Assembly
Bridgehampton, NY



Joe Forgione
President & CEO
RailComm
Fairport, NY



Nadine Lemmon
Director, New York and Federal Affairs
Tri-State Transportation Campaign
Albany, NY



Allan Kasprzak
Mayor
Village of East Aurora
East Aurora, NY



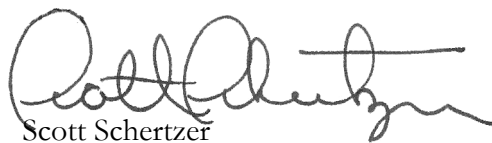
Jonathan Barfield
Vice-Chairman
New Hanover County Commission
Wilmington, NC



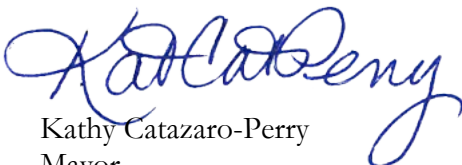
Frank Iler
District 17
North Carolina House of Representatives
Oak Island, NC



Kathy Goon
Executive Director
Ashland Area Council for Economic Devel.
Ashland, OH



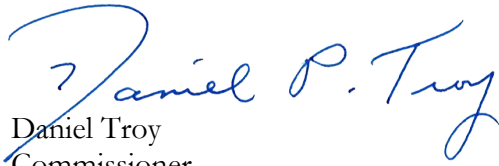
Scott Schertzer
Mayor
City of Marion
Marion, OH



Kathy Catazaro-Perry
Mayor
City of Massillon
Massillon, OH



Jeff Zimmerman
Director
Columbus Region Logistics Council
Columbus, OH



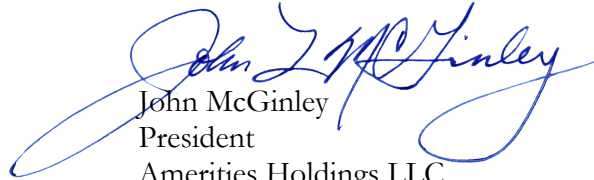
Daniel Troy
Commissioner
Lake County Commission
Painesville, OH



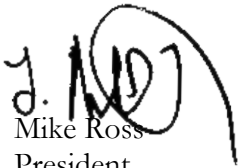
Ted Graham
President
Marion Intermodal
Marion, OH



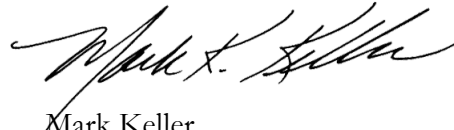
Jeff Dafler
Vice President Government Affairs
The Timken Corporation
Canton, OH



John McGinley
President
Amerities Holdings LLC
Edmond, OK



Mike Ross
President
Franklin County Area Devel. Corporation
Chambersburg, PA



Mark Keller
District 86
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Landisburg, PA



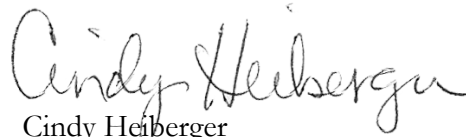
Robert F. "Bob" Matzie
District 16
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Ambridge, PA



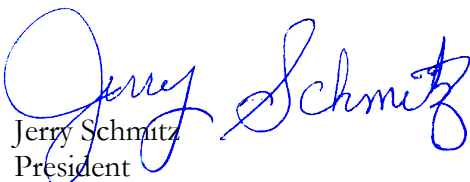
Chris Cap
Executive Director
Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
Harrisburg, PA



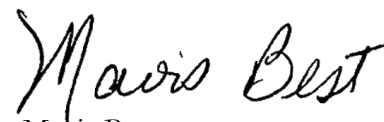
Richard Alloway II
District 33
Pennsylvania State Senate
Chambersburg, PA



Cindy Heiberger
Chair
Minnehaha County Commission
Sioux Falls, SD



Jerry Schmitz
President
South Dakota Soybean Association
Vermillion, SD



Mavis Best
Transportation Manager
South Dakota Soybean Processors, LLC
Volga, SD



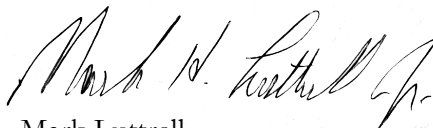
Michael Vehle
District 20
South Dakota State Senate
Mitchell, SD



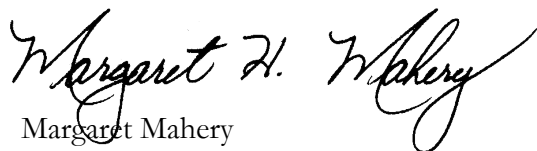
Jeff Parrett
Vice President
Wheeler Lumber, LLC
Whitewood, SD



Grey Collier
Quality Assurance Coordinator
Central Sales & Service, Inc.
Waverly, TN



Mark Luttrell
Mayor
Shelby County
Memphis, TN




Margaret Mahery
Executive Director
Tennessee Municipal League
Nashville, TN



Phil Pietrandrea
President
UNITRAC Railroad Materials, Inc.
Knoxville, TN



Bob Mitchell
President
Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership
Houston, TX



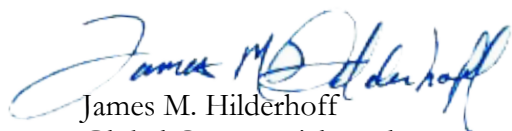
Barbara Koslov
President
Bay Area Houston Transportation P'ship
Webster, TX



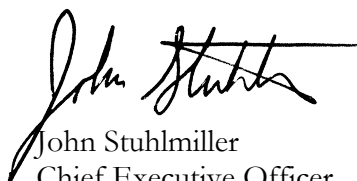
Andy Eads
Precinct 4
Denton County Commissioners Court
Flower Mound, TX



Mary Horn
County Judge
Denton County Commissioners Court
Denton County, TX



James M. Hilderhoff
Global Commercial Leader
GE Transportation
Fort Worth, TX




John Stuhlmiller
Chief Executive Officer
Washington Farm Bureau
Lacey, WA



Jim Ladwig
President/CEO
Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce
Racine, WI



Jonathan Delagrave
County Executive
Racine County
Racine, WI



Craig Thompson
Executive Director
Transportation Devel. Association of WI
Madison, WI



Kurt Bauer
President/CEO
Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce
Madison, WI