



**U.S. Department  
of Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

December 27, 2017

Senator Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your letter of December 21, 2017. While we prepare specific answers to your questions, we wanted to provide this interim response.

Your concerns about rail safety and implementation of positive train control (PTC) are important ones. You can be assured that these issues have the full attention of the dedicated employees of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the entire U.S. Department of Transportation, especially in light of the recent Amtrak derailment in Washington State. The Department will keep Congress apprised as we work with the Nation's railroads to address the need for improved rail safety and to advance the rollout of PTC technology as mandated by Congress.

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A similar response has been sent to each cosigner of your letter.

Sincerely,

Sean McMaster  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional Affairs

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader, United States Senate

The Honorable John Thune, Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce,  
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Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

Thank you for your letter of December 21, 2017. While we prepare specific answers to your questions, we wanted to provide this interim response.

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Senator Robert Menendez  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Menendez:

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Senator Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

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Senator Patty Murray  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

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Senator Maria Cantwell  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell:

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Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

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Senator Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harris:

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Senator Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

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Senator Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

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Senator Cory A. Booker  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Booker:

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Senator Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murphy:

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Senator Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

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The Honorable Bill Nelson  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

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The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

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