



November 30, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Vote “Yes” on H.J. Res. 100**

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Republican Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi and Republican Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of the National Retail Federation, I am writing to you today urging you to vote “Yes” on H.J. Res. 100 to implement the Tentative Agreement that was negotiated between the administration and the rail labor unions and railroads. It is critical to pass this bill to prevent a potential catastrophic freight rail shutdown that could cost the economy \$2 billion a day. **Please note that NRF will consider votes for H.J. Res. 100 as part of the Retail Opportunity Index for our voting scorecard.**

NRF, the world’s largest retail trade association, passionately advocates for the people, brands, policies and ideas that help retail thrive. NRF empowers the industry that powers the economy. Retail is the nation’s largest private-sector employer, contributing \$3.9 trillion to annual GDP and supporting one in four U.S. jobs — 52 million working Americans. For over a century, NRF has been a voice for every retailer and every retail job, educating, inspiring and communicating the powerful impact retail has on local communities and global economies.

Our nation’s retailers continue to meet strong consumer demand despite ongoing supply chain challenges. The goods and services delivered by retailers are a key part of needed economic growth — despite various economic headwinds — and they require stable operations throughout the supply chain. This includes the freight railroads, which are a key component of the retail supply chain.

Retailers are in the middle of the peak holiday shopping season, which is vital for the retail industry. While retailers are well prepared, there is significant concern that any rail network

National Retail Federaton

November 30, 2022

Page 2

disruptions could have long-lasting negative effects on the economy as a whole. For retailers, a rail disruption would impact parcel delivery, which relies heavily on the rail network. The Association of American Railroads estimates that a rail strike would cost the economy \$2 billion a day.

Unfortunately, as the administration has indicated, there is no path forward for a deal among the parties to come to a final agreement without congressional action. We believe the only option now is for Congress to implement the Tentative Agreement to prevent a strike and shutdown.

American businesses and families are already facing increased prices due to persistent inflation, and a rail strike will create greater inflationary pressures and threaten business resiliency. We urge you to vote “Yes” on H.J. Res. 100 to avert a rail strike and the resultant catastrophic shutdown of the freight rail system. If you have any questions, please contact [Jonathan Gold](#), NRF’s Vice President, Supply Chain and Customs Policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David French".

David French  
Senior Vice President  
Government Relations

cc: Members of Congress