



The [Railway Supply Institute](#) (RSI) is writing to express support for Congressional action to avert a rail strike and enact the tentative agreements reached in September. RSI is an international trade association representing more than 160 companies involved in the manufacture of goods and services in the locomotive, freight car, maintenance of way, communications and signaling, and passenger rail industries.

RSI members provide critical products to Class I and short line freight railroads, shippers, Amtrak, and transit authorities nationwide and work with these customers to create new products or services that drive enhancements in safety and efficiency across their networks. These systems are supported by an extensive, domestic railway supply industry that has been a dynamic and vital part of the U.S. economy for more than 200 years, encompassing 125,000 jobs across all 50 states and paying an average wage 40 percent higher than the national average. This industry also contributes billions of dollars to the national economy every year, producing \$10.7 billion in federal taxes and over \$6 billion in state and local taxes every year. Our supply chain is greatly at risk should there be a rail strike.

As you likely remember, eight rail unions have ratified contracts based on the Tentative Agreements (TAs) reached in September. The other four unions were unsuccessful in ratifying those contracts and their cooling off periods end on December 9th. Barring additional action, we could then have a nationwide rail strike that costs the economy over \$2 billion per day. For that reason, more than 400 business groups, including RSI sent a [letter](#) to Congress yesterday urging action to prevent a strike. Last night, the White House released a [statement](#) urging Congress to pass legislation enacting the September TAs to avert a strike. I have also attached a one-pager regarding this issue should it be helpful.

It now looks like **the House will take up that legislation tomorrow** to pass something before railroads have to start winding down the network in anticipation of a shutdown on December 9th. Please consider asking your boss to support Congressional action and vote to avert a rail strike.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Nicole Brewin, Senior VP of Government & Public Affairs at, [brewin@rsiweb.org](mailto:brewin@rsiweb.org), if you need any additional information. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

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