



**American
Iron and Steel
Institute**

Steelgram

Immediate Attention Requested

December 1, 2022

**To: Members of the U.S. Senate
Senate staff assigned to steel and/or transportation issues**

SUPPORT H.J. Res. 100 - TO AVOID A FREIGHT RAIL SYSTEM DISRUPTION

Background: American steel producers rely heavily on railroads for transporting raw materials to their mills and for shipping finished steel products to the market. Last year, railroads hauled more than 1.5 million carloads of steel and the raw materials needed to produce America's steel. A functional freight railroad system is critical to ensuring that the American steel industry can effectively and efficiently serve its customers. At a time when our nation's supply chains for critical materials like steel have not yet fully recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic, it would be a tremendous setback for supply chains to suffer another blow, especially as government and industry are partnering to implement the recent historic bipartisan infrastructure law.

Situation: The recent rejection of the agreement reached between the railroads and the negotiators for rail labor organizations in September has raised concerns that a harmful interruption to the rail system may occur as soon as early next week. While a voluntary agreement among all parties to the ongoing rail negotiations is clearly the best outcome, Congressional action is necessary to ensure that our nation's freight rail system remains operational. President Biden stated this week that a rail shutdown would have drastic effects on our national economy and called on Congress to pass legislation immediately to avoid that result. H.J. Res. 100 would enact the September agreement between the parties and prevent a freight rail disruption from occurring. The House of Representatives passed the legislation yesterday by a vote of 290-137.

Request: Please vote in support of H.J. Res. 100 when it is considered by the full Senate. A freight rail shutdown would devastate our economy and have very significant negative impacts on the domestic steel industry. This bipartisan legislation will avoid such a shutdown and will ensure that our nation's freight rail system remains fully operational.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin M. Dempsey".

Kevin M. Dempsey
President and CEO