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Kevin M. Dempsey
President and Chief Executive Officer

September 14, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

On behalf of the producer members of the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI), I am writing to express concerns about the state of ongoing labor negotiations in the freight rail industry and the potential for significant disruption in the critical national rail system, which would have serious consequences for the entire U.S. economy. Our nation's railroads not only serve as the arteries for American commerce – they are an *indispensable* necessity for the health and survival of our domestic steel industry. Last year, railroads hauled more than 1.5 *million* carloads of steel and the raw materials needed to produce America's steel.

AISI serves as the voice of the American steel industry in the public policy arena and advances the case for steel in the marketplace as the preferred material of choice. AISI's membership is comprised of both integrated and electric arc furnace steelmakers, as well as associate members who are suppliers to or customers of the steel industry. The American steel industry is essential to our national and economic security, supports nearly two million American jobs and is the cleanest and most energy efficient of the leading steel industries in the world.

American steel producers rely heavily on railroads for transporting raw materials to their mills and for shipping finished steel products to the market. 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

Letter to Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, and Republican Leaders McConnell and McCarthy

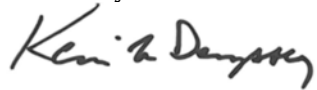
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as government and industry are partnering to implement the recent historic bipartisan infrastructure law.

A voluntary agreement among all parties to the ongoing rail negotiations is clearly the best outcome. But if negotiators fail to reach an agreement by the end of the cooling off period, we urge Congress to act to ensure that our nation's freight rail system remains operational.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin M. Dempsey". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kevin M. Dempsey
President and Chief Executive Officer