



Freight Rail Customer Alliance

May 9, 2023

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Senate Commerce, Science, and
Transportation Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
Senate Commerce, Science, and
Transportation Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable J.D. Vance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, and Senator Vance –

The Freight Rail Customer Alliance ([FRCA](#)) – an umbrella organization including trade associations representing more than 3,500 manufacturing, agriculture, chemical and alternative fuels companies, electric utilities, and their customers – supports the Managers’ Amendment to the ***Freight Rail Safety Act of 2023***, S. 576, that is scheduled to be considered by the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee during an Executive Session on May 10.

FRCA has concerns regarding the proposed increase in civil penalties for such penalties tend to be passed on to shippers. Additionally, the proposed shipper compliance requirements could pose new and significant regulatory burdens, which may increase consumer costs, including essential energy needs. However, enhancing the safety of our nation’s freight rail network is integral to the U.S. Congress also addressing the continued, systemic, freight rail service problems still being experienced by shippers regardless of size, geographical location, or commodity. This adverse impact is especially being felt by shippers who are rail-dependent or captive.

FRCA looks forward to continuing the dialogue on penalties and shipper compliance as this legislation moves forward, in addition to Congress addressing freight rail service problems. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ann Warner
Spokesperson
Freight Rail Customer Alliance

cc: Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Members

About FRCA

The Freight Rail Customer Alliance (FRCA), is an umbrella membership organization that includes large trade associations representing more than 3,500 electric utility, agriculture, chemical, and alternative fuel companies, and their consumers. The mission of FRCA’s growing coalition of industries and associations is to obtain changes in Federal law and policy that will provide all freight shippers with reliable rail service at competitive prices. www.railvoices.org