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Dear Midwestern Member of Congress,

The Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC) urges you to support legislation which provides an extension of the Positive Train Control (PTC) implementation deadline, while giving the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) authority to review and enforce implementation.

The Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (RSIA) mandated that passenger railroads and Class I freight railroads install PTC by the end of 2015 on main lines used to transport passengers or certain highly toxic materials.

Unfortunately, for various reasons, almost all railroads will not make the December 31, 2015 deadline. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) and FRA have confirmed both the gravity of the situation and FRA's inability to grant exceptions to the deadline (since the mandated deadline is law, only Congress can change it).

Not extending the deadline would mean that most intercity passenger rail and commuter service would cease (as well as certain freight shipments) before or immediately after December 31.

Thank you for your consideration.

Please feel free to contact Laura Kliewer, MIPRC's director, at lkiewer@miprc.org or 630.925.1922, with any comments or questions.

Sincerely,

Tim Hoeffner
 MIPRC Chair

Joan Bray
 MIPRC Vice Chair

Sen. Carolyn McGinn
 MIPRC Financial Officer

Chair
 Mr. Tim Hoeffner, Michigan

Vice Chair
 Ms. Joan Bray, Missouri

Financial Officer
 Sen. Carolyn McGinn, Kansas

Director
 Laura Kliewer

*Bringing Together
 State Leaders from
 Across the Region
 to Advocate
 for Passenger Rail
 Improvements*

The Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission is a nine-state interstate compact commission that promotes, coordinates and supports regional improvements to passenger rail service. Our member states include Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and Wisconsin.