

# THE SHIPMENT OF PRODUCTS THAT ARE CRITICAL TO EVERYDAY LIFE ARE IN JEOPARDY UNLESS CONGRESS EXTENDS THE DEADLINE FOR POSITIVE TRAIN CONTROL



## Positive Train Control

Positive train control (PTC) is a GPS-based system designed to monitor and control train movements to provide increased safety. It works to prevent train collisions and derailments caused by speeding.



## Congressional Mandate

Under the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008, railroads are required to implement PTC on lines that ship toxic inhalation hazard (TIH) chemicals and on passenger rail by December 31, 2015. TIH chemicals include chlorine, anhydrous ammonia, ethylene oxide, and hydrogen fluoride.



## PTC Deadline is Unachievable

The Association of American Railroads, GAO, and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) have unequivocally confirmed that PTC will not be implemented by the deadline. Despite their common carrier obligation, at least one Class I railroad has stated publically it is considering shutting down rail lines that carry TIH products. The FRA has also made it clear that it will strictly enforce the PTC deadline.



## Congress Must Act Now

Should Congress fail to act before the end of this year, the shipment of many critical products by rail could be brought to a standstill. If railroads do follow through on their threat to refuse shipments, it could disrupt shipments of chlorine that are used in water treatment, in the manufacturing of PVC plastic that is used in essential medical equipment, and countless other essential goods. Shipments of anhydrous ammonia used in fertilizer could also be disrupted, which could lead to lost crops, increased food prices, and shortages. Even allowing the deadline to approach could be very damaging as companies make long-term transportation plans.

*The Senate included a 3 year PTC extension in the latest version of their long term highway bill that must be approved by the House quickly. If the highway bill stalls, an extension through another legislative vehicle is vital.*

***Congress must act swiftly and approve a reasonable extension.***