



**Aric Newhouse**

*Senior Vice President  
Policy and Government Relations*

October 28, 2015

U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support H.R. 3819, the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2015 introduced by Rep. Bill Shuster (R-PA).

The need to update and modernize our nation's transportation infrastructure extends far beyond state transportation departments and road builders. Manufacturers need stable and reliable infrastructure to thrive and compete in today's economy. Funding our roads, bridges and transit systems is a national priority. To compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy, we have to invest and modernize our infrastructure with an eye toward economic growth, jobs and increased competitiveness.

Manufacturers strongly support the inclusion of language to extend the December 31, 2015 Positive Train Control (PTC) deadline by three years. The PTC language is critical to preventing an eventual shutdown of vital freight and passenger rail services across the nation. Effects of legislative inaction could appear as soon as November, as railroads have already informed customers that disruptions will begin next month to complete shipments that are in transit, and that they may not be able to accept new shipments as they do not plan to move freight after December 31 in order to avoid violating the statutory requirements of the PTC mandate. An interruption of freight rail service of this magnitude would force manufacturers to put contingency plans into motion, including adjusting production schedules and workforce levels. It would jeopardize businesses' ability to receive inputs and deliver finished products, negatively impacting every sector of the U.S. economy.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on H.R. 3819, including procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Aric Newhouse'.

Aric Newhouse

Key Manufacturing Vote