

RON KIND
THIRD DISTRICT, WISCONSIN
SENIOR WHIP

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

September 10, 2015

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Claude Mongeau, President & Chief Executive Officer
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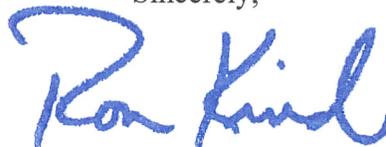
Dear Mr. Mongeau,

I write to you today to express my concern over Canadian National's disregard to public safety in communities throughout Wisconsin. Our cities and towns are faced with growing incidences of blocked grade crossings by Canadian National trains. Not only do these prolonged blocked crossings impede the flow of basic traffic and commerce, but they also present a public health problem when emergency response vehicles are not able to pass.

Over the past year, our communities have tried to work in cooperation with Canadian National to reduce the frequency of blocked grade crossings. When these attempts failed, our local authorities began issuing citations to the railroad since Wisconsin law prohibits a train from blocking a grade crossing for more than ten minutes at a time. Canadian National has refused to pay these fines on the basis that Wisconsin law is pre-empted by federal law, and two county judges recently ruled in favor of the railroad. This has completely tied the hands of our state and local authorities, and it seriously impacts our communities' safety.

It is vital that Canadian National work with our communities and local authorities to reduce the serious public health risks posed by blocking grade crossings for extended periods of time. As incidences of blocked grade crossings continue – increasing public safety risks and reducing quality of life for communities – I request that you take steps to foster a more collaborative relationship with our state and local authorities. I look forward to a timely response from you regarding how Canadian National intends to better communicate with our local communities to reduce incidences of extended blocked grade crossings.

Sincerely,



Ron Kind
Member of Congress

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