

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

February 13, 2015

Matthew K. Rose
Executive Chairman
BNSF Railway
2650 Lou Menk Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76131-2830

Dear Mr. Rose,

It is with serious concern that I write to you today regarding a fatal incident along the railway tracks between the Village of Pepin and the Chippewa River that occurred last Thursday, February 5. Communication problems between BNSF and local first responders put many of our communities' first responders at an unnecessary risk.

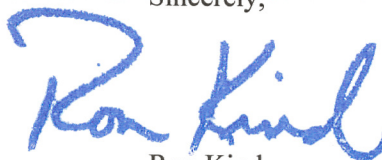
On February 5, a man's body was found near BNSF tracks in a remote area of Pepin, Wisconsin. Although BNSF railroad police had been contacted and asked to temporarily halt rail traffic, our local first responders arrived at the scene to a moving train. First responders were forced to duck the train on their way to the victim, putting their lives at great peril.

As this incident investigation progresses, I ask that you provide answers to the following questions:

- Why did BNSF fail to shut down the tracks at the site of this incident, even after dispatchers had been contacted?
- What steps does BNSF intend to take to ensure that this miscommunication does not happen again in the future?
- How does BNSF plan to build better lines of communication and cooperation with local first responders?

As BNSF's presence in Wisconsin continues to grow, it is critical that you foster a relationship built on effective communication with our communities, especially with our local police and first responders. These men and women who so selflessly put their lives in danger to keep our neighbors safe deserve – at the very least – an open and honest relationship with the railway. I look forward to a timely response from you to the questions I have posed, and I trust that last week's miscommunication issues will be quickly rectified.

Sincerely,



Ron Kind
Member of Congress