

March 4, 2022.

Dear Minister,

We are writing to express our alarm at the prospect of a rail service interruption at CP Rail. On behalf of 20,000 employees working in the freight forwarding industry, we want to make clear how serious the impact of such an event would be.

As you know well, our supply chains remain severely impacted by Covid-19 and the resulting chaos in marine and tertiary transport. Delays and uncertainty are costing consumers, and especially Canadian businesses, and creating huge losses. A significant disruption in rail services would be a catastrophic additional blow.

CP rail is a critical player in our transport network, obviously, and in particular handles a significant percentage of freight through the Port of Vancouver. Your government's recent actions in this port have begun to pay off in reduced congestion. A rail strike or lockout would reverse the good work you have done.

Customarily government allows the negotiating parties to resolve their disputes through a normal process which might include acts like lockouts or strikes. But these are not normal times and we urge you and your colleagues to consider aggressive federal measures to bring the parties to some kind of resolution which does not harm their customers and the larger economy.

The pandemic crisis has forced governments to take many steps they would not have considered in gentler times and this is yet another occasion when an emergency requires unusual action on behalf of all Canadians.

Sincerely,

Bruce Rodgers

Executive Director, CIFFA



Julia Kuzeljevich Director, Policy and Communications



The Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association (CIFFA) represents some 260 regular member firms from the largest of global multi-national freight forwarding firms to small and medium sized Canadian companies. CIFFA member companies employ tens of thousands of highly skilled international trade and transportation specialists. As a vital component of Canada's global supply chain, member firms of the Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association (CIFFA) facilitate the movement of goods around the world. Freight forwarders provide a vital link in Canada's global supply chains, enhancing export capabilities and assisting in the delivery of competitive solutions to Canada's importing and exporting communities.