



ISABEL AGUAYO  
Mayor

ANNETTE C. DELGADILLO  
Vice Mayor

PEGGY LEMONS  
Councilmember

BRENDA OLMOS  
Councilmember

VILMA CUELLAR STALLINGS  
Councilmember

May 8, 2023

The Honorable Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Congresswoman, 44<sup>th</sup> District  
United States House of Representatives  
2312 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

## **RE: REQUEST TO CONGRESS FOR STRICTER RAIL SAFETY REGULATIONS**

Dear Congresswoman Barragán:

The City of Paramount kindly requests your support in advocating on behalf of the communities you represent for stricter rail safety regulations, including those made to Congress by the National League of Cities (NLC). In our region, a complex network of railroads cut through underserved dense urban communities like Paramount, which is why the City, along with the NLC, supports action by Congress to improve rail safety in the United States.

The unfortunate derailment and environmental contamination in East Palestine, Ohio is not unprecedented. There are more than 1,000 trains derailing each year in multiple states. With 140,000 miles of track in the U.S. crossing directly through thousands of cities, towns and villages, the severity of this derailment requires proactive reflection on rail safety actions that Congress can take now.

Paramount is a densely populated, underserved community with nearly four miles of railroad tracks running through the City. On average, about five trains pass through Paramount each day transporting a bevy of unknown cargo and at various speeds. To mitigate significant hazardous risk in our community, we ask for Congress to act now on rail safety improvements.

The NLC's detailed rail safety recommendations to Congress include the following points:

- Provide Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) data to assess the risk of hazardous materials moving on fewer, longer trains and target safety oversight.
- Ensure financial fines are used first for the community impacted.
- Expedite rail safety improvements and technology tools to reduce rail deaths and derailments.

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*Dedicated to providing fiscally responsible services that maintain a vibrant community.*

- Expand the list of hazardous materials that are reported to state and local first responders.
- Invest in local experimentation for improving signs and signals that reduce costs and increase safety.
- Support the NTSB's experts and pass their recommendations.
- Set the expectation for America's railroads to be good neighbors.

We are encouraged by the introduction of the bipartisan Railway Safety Act of 2023 in the Senate to improve rail safety, and by the House members who have provided proposals to expand the list of reported chemicals so that when derailments occur first responders may have the adequate training and resources to respond.

For these reasons, the City of Paramount is pleased to support action by Congress to improve rail safety. Please feel free to contact City Manager John Moreno at (562) 220-2225, if you have any questions. On behalf of the City of Paramount, we thank you for your time and consideration.

CITY OF PARAMOUNT



Isabel Aguayo  
Mayor

CC. Honorable State Senator Lena Gonzalez, 33rd District  
Honorable Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, 62nd District  
Kristine Guerrero, Regional Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities  
Jorge Morales, Legislative and Governmental Affairs Consultant, California Contract Cities Association