

August 19, 2024

Bonita Zarrillo
Member of Parliament for Port Moody – Coquitlam
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Via electronic mail: bonita.zarrillo@parl.gc.ca

Re: Potential Labour Disruption in Class I railways

Dear MP Zarrillo,

On behalf of the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to urge you to immediately intervene and do everything necessary to avert a disruption in Canada's Class I railways.

A concurrent or sequential work stoppage at both major railways will leave our local communities and all Canadians with access to fewer goods and products, driving up prices and exacerbating affordability challenges. A failure to act swiftly will also put the livelihoods of millions of workers in jeopardy.

Our international reputation and relationship with our trading partners is at stake. Canada's railways transport \$380 billion worth of goods annually – that's over \$1 billion each day – and account for half of the country's exports.

A rail stoppage could result in the loss of perishable goods and food waste, create shortages of critical consumer staple products, jeopardize access to crucial construction and wooden building materials, impact the automotive supply chain, interrupt access to a reliable supply of liquid transportation fuels, and pose a risk to public health due to disrupted supply of water treatment chemicals like chlorine.

Furthermore, in our local communities, it means TransLink's West Coast Express commuter rail would cease operations during any labour disruption, as it uses rail lines owned by CPKC and relies on CPKC's dispatchers and rail workers. Every weekday, 6,000 commuters in Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley count on the West Coast Express to get to and from work.

We are respectfully asking that you safeguard the well-being of our communities and the country's reputation as a reliable trading partner by doing everything you can to ensure that a disruption to our national railway system does not occur.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Leslie Courchesne
Chief Executive Officer