



## RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

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CHRISTI CRADDICK  
CHAIRMAN

May 31, 2023

The Honorable John Cornyn  
U.S. Senator for Texas  
Hart Senate Office Building 517  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
U.S. Senator for Texas  
Russell Senate Office Building 167  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cornyn and Cruz,

The recent reporting of the Railway Safety Act of 2023 from the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is concerning for Texas and the United States as a whole. As Chairman of the Railroad Commission of Texas, our jurisdiction covers the oil and gas industry, surface mining, pipeline safety, geothermal and carbon capture efforts. As the sole focus of this agency, and making up 1/3 of our state's economy, the energy industry is critical not only to the prosperity of Texas, but to the rest of the country as well. As drafted, the bill will impede the transport of energy products via railway, hindering not only the state and national economies, but national security efforts as well.

Efforts to enact operational restrictions on railway transportation in light of the tragic East Palestine explosion are premature as the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigation is still ongoing. In particular, Section 102 of the bill seeks to limit the amount of hazardous materials carried via railway. When left to interpretation by the Biden administration's rulemaking efforts, that definition could easily include important energy products such as oil, natural gas products, and coal. Limiting access to safe and responsibly produced domestic energy would increase our reliance on foreign oil, making our country more vulnerable on an international level.

I respectfully request that you refrain from supporting the Railway Safety Act of 2023 until the NTSB has time to complete a thorough investigation or meaningful guardrails can be added to the bill to protect the energy supply chain. Americans cannot afford to have their access to domestic energy limited by this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christi Craddick". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Christi Craddick

Chairman, Railroad Commission of Texas