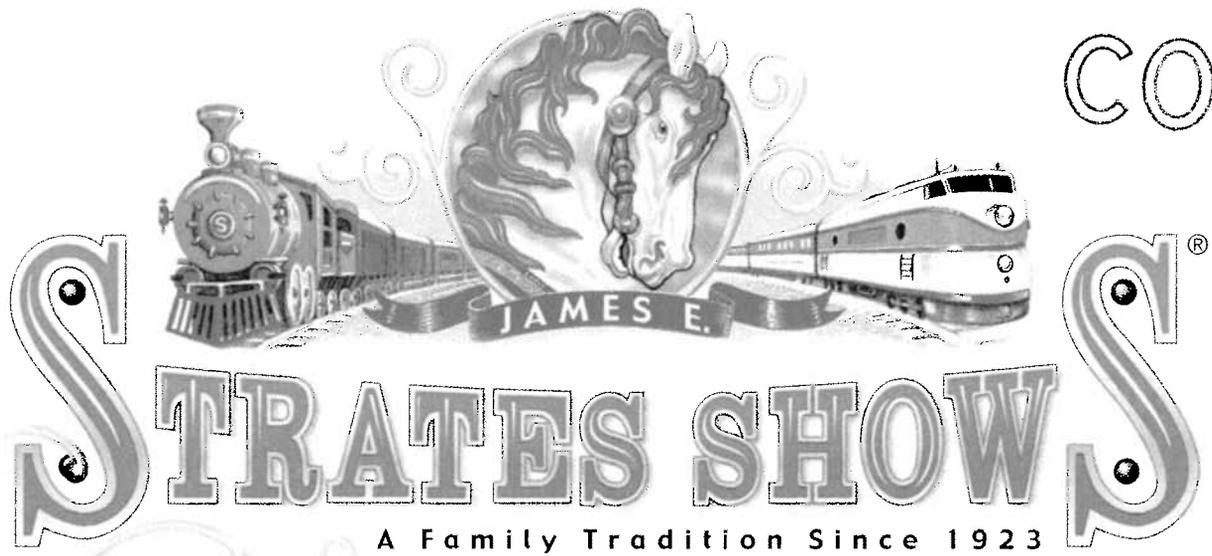


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September 15, 2015

The Honorable John Thune, Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to you in connection with the Positive Train Control (PTC) requirement of the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008. Mr. Michael Ward, Chairman and CEO of CSX Corporation, shared his recent letter to you with many CSX customers.

James E. Strates Shows is America's only railroad carnival. The tradition of carnival companies traveling by railroad in the United States dates back to the 1800's. My father purchased our first railroad cars in the early 1930's, and we have been traveling by rail ever since, delighting thousands of Americans as we pull into cities and towns up and down the east coast of the United States. We are proud to keep this railroading tradition alive.

In his letter to you, Mr. Ward noted that CSX operates over commuter rail lines in the Northeast and SunRail in Central Florida and that CSX does not believe the railroads will be ready for PTC by the January 1, 2016 deadline. He wrote, "As a result, due to the comingling of CSX freight trains with passenger trains, CSX is seriously considering suspending freight operations over these lines."

If this were to happen, it would mean the end of the carnival railroad tradition in the United States. You see, James E. Strates Shows' Winter Quarters is located on the SunRail line in Orlando, and that line is our only means of getting in and out of Florida. Furthermore, our route north takes us along the Northeast commuter corridor. The suspension of CSX freight

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service in these areas would be severely detrimental to the livelihoods of everyone that works with the James E. Strates Shows.

We join with CSX and the railroad industry to urge your support of an extension of the deadline for implementation of PTC.

Sincerely,



E. James Strates
President

cc: The Honorable Bill Nelson
The Honorable Deb Fischer
The Honorable Cory Booker
The Honorable Marco Rubio
The Honorable Anthony Foxx, United States Secretary of Transportation
The Honorable Sara Feinberg, Acting Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration
The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott III, Chairman, Surface Transportation Board
The Honorable Ann D. Begeman, Vice Chairman, Surface Transportation Board ✓
The Honorable Deb Miller, Board Member, Surface Transportation Board
Mr. Michael J. Ward, Chairman and CEO, CSX Corporation