



American Water Works
Association

New York Section



1 December 2022

The Honorable Kristen Gillibrand
478 Russell
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Rail Strike Threatens Safe Drinking Water and Clean Water Utility Services

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations that provide essential drinking and wastewater services to the people of New York State, we ask you to continue working urgently to produce a settlement among railway companies and rail unions to avert a strike. A stoppage of rail service in the United States would have a catastrophic effect on the ability of water utilities to treat drinking water and wastewater and to perform other water treatment services. Without the proper supplies delivered by rail, this would present a significant threat to human health and to the health of the environment, as it would affect our members' ability to provide these essential services.

Chlorine is critical in the drinking water treatment process. It is also required for disinfecting drinking water so that it is safe and for compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Many wastewater utilities also use chlorine for disinfection to protect public health and the surrounding environment. The critical products used to disinfect and treat water are typically delivered to distributors by rail, who then ship it to utilities over roadways.

We are grateful for the work that has been done so far to avoid a nationwide strike, but strongly urge you to continue to work with the rail companies and unions to avoid a strike and avoid further supply chain challenges for critical water disinfection and treatment products.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Jenny Ingrao
Executive Director

Patricia Cerro-Reehil
Executive Director

Jamie Herman
Chief Executive Officer