

February 5, 2014

The Honourable Lisa Raitt
Minister of Transport, Transport Canada
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N5
Email: lisa.raitt@parl.gc.ca

RE: Teamsters Canada Rail Conference Potential Strike

Dear Minister Raitt,

On behalf of the members of the Canadian Propane Association (CPA), I am writing to you today to express our deep concern with the potential strike by the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference - Conductors, Trainpersons and Yardpersons, which represents approximately 3,000 CN train and yard operations employees in Canada. The union has given the company 72 hours' notice of its intention to strike the railway at 0001 hours Eastern Standard Time on February 8, 2014.

While we understand and respect the bargaining process, the CPA believes that the reliable supply of propane by pipeline, truck and rail should be recognized as an essential service. Since this winter has been a particularly colder than normal season, the demand for propane as a heating source is extremely high. Without the ability to transport propane to residential and commercial customers, including hospitals, the results could be catastrophic.

Driven by a unique combination of organizations, every year the propane industry makes a \$10 billion dollar impact on the Canadian economy, generates over \$900 million in taxes and royalties, and supports the livelihood of more than 20,000 Canadians.

Canada produces approximately 11 billion litres of propane annually; half of the supply is consumed within Canada and the other half is exported to the United States. Consequently, the potential work stoppage would have a negative impact on our member companies who rely on rail to transport propane and on the Canadian economy.

We ask that the government intervene in this situation and take the necessary steps to ensure a quick resolution to the dispute.

It would be my pleasure to discuss this matter with you if you have any questions. I can be reached at 613-818-7458 or andrealabelle@propane.ca.

Regards,



Andrea Labelle
General Manager

CC. Minister Kellie Leitch, Minister of Labour, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada