



14 February 2020

Honourable Marc Garneau
Minister of Transport
Transport Canada
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5

Dear Minister Garneau,

We are writing on behalf the Association of Canadian Port Authorities, the Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association, the Freight Management Association of Canada, and the Shipping Federation of Canada.

Collectively, our organizations represent a significant proportion of transportation and supply chain stakeholders – including importers and exporters, ocean carriers, freight forwarders and port authorities - all of whose operations have been severely constrained by the ongoing blockade along Canada's rail network.

We are particularly concerned about the impacts of the blockade on CN's mainline in Belleville, Ontario, which provides a critical connection between western and eastern Canada, and between eastern Canada and the US Midwest. Given that more than \$250 billion in goods moves across CN's transcontinental network every year, the effect of this shutdown on the Canadian economy - and on the ability of Canadians to access essential goods and services in their day-day-to lives - cannot be overstated.

We also cannot overstate the potential of this disruption to cause serious reputational damage to the reliability and efficiency of Canada's transportation system – and its future ability to serve the needs of the Canadian economy overall.

Given the gravity of the current situation, we strongly urge the government to do everything in its power to find a long-term resolution to this issue, with a view to ensuring that Canada's transportation network – and the many sectors and stakeholders it supports – can return to full operations at the earliest possible opportunity.

Sincerely,



Robert Ballantyne
President
**FREIGHT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
OF CANADA**



Michael Broad
President
SHIPPING FEDERATION OF CANADA



Bruce Rodgers
President
**CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL
FREIGHT FORWARDERS ASSOCIATION (CIFFA)**



Wendy Zatylny
President
**ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN PORT
AUTHORITIES**

cc: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
The Honourable Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Natural Resources
The Honourable William Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness