



ASSOCIATION OF  
AMERICAN RAILROADS

**Office of the President**  
**Edward R. Hamberger**  
**President and Chief Executive Officer**

September 20, 2013

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Budget  
B-71 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Van Hollen:

I am writing to inform you of a budgetary irregularity that has caused the federal government to reduce railroad unemployment and sickness benefits as a result of sequestration cuts made pursuant to the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Unlike benefits paid to employees outside the rail sector, these unemployment and sickness benefits are funded by means of payroll contributions assessed solely on railroad employers. No employee contributions, general taxpayer funds or government subsidies are involved.

Despite this distinction, federal budget rules do not distinguish the treatment of railroad unemployment and sickness benefits from taxpayer-subsidized programs. Since these benefits are paid for entirely by the railroads, the Association of American Railroads urges you to help resolve this incongruity and preserve the well-being of the industry's valued employees.

Sincerely,



Edward R. Hamberger



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President and Chief Executive Officer

September 20, 2013

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
Ranking Member  
Senate Budget Committee-Minority Office  
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Sessions:

I am writing to inform you of a budgetary irregularity that has caused the federal government to reduce railroad unemployment and sickness benefits as a result of sequestration cuts made pursuant to the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Unlike benefits paid to employees outside the rail sector, these unemployment and sickness benefits are funded by means of payroll contributions assessed solely on railroad employers. No employee contributions, general taxpayer funds or government subsidies are involved.

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The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairwoman  
Senate Budget Committee  
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murray:

I am writing to inform you of a budgetary irregularity that has caused the federal government to reduce railroad unemployment and sickness benefits as a result of sequestration cuts made pursuant to the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Unlike benefits paid to employees outside the rail sector, these unemployment and sickness benefits are funded by means of payroll contributions assessed solely on railroad employers. No employee contributions, general taxpayer funds or government subsidies are involved.

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The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Chairman  
Committee on the Budget  
207 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Ryan:

I am writing to inform you of a budgetary irregularity that has caused the federal government to reduce railroad unemployment and sickness benefits as a result of sequestration cuts made pursuant to the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Unlike benefits paid to employees outside the rail sector, these unemployment and sickness benefits are funded by means of payroll contributions assessed solely on railroad employers. No employee contributions, general taxpayer funds or government subsidies are involved.

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