



**ATTN: United States Trade Representative Ambassador Robert Lighthizer, Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland and Secretary of Economy Ildefonso Guajardo.**

**RE: The freight railway unions' letter of support for a renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement that works for workers.**

Twenty years ago, the railway unions of North America joined together in a “Trilateral Letter of Agreement,” attached and incorporated by reference hereto, in which our members declared “their unity in securing fair and equal treatment for the performance of their services.” In that spirit of solidarity, we come together again in support of the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Collectively, we represent more than 143,000 freight and passenger rail workers, engineers, conductors, track maintenance workers and trainmen from Chiapas to New Brunswick. They have benefited from the economic integration of our three countries and the development of continental supply chains that are a legacy of NAFTA. Our employers, the freight rail companies, have invested in technologies and infrastructure that have contributed to more trade, economic growth and good jobs for a generation.

As you enter the last rounds of new NAFTA talks, we urge you to agree on the dramatic reforms that will make the final agreement work for workers, starting with a strong Labor Chapter. In this regard, we proclaim our solidarity with all the workers of North America whether in manufacture, agriculture, and service sectors. The new NAFTA must obligate the Parties to adopt and maintain strong labor laws that will be enforceable by trade sanctions.

Further, we urge you to commit, whether in the text of NAFTA 2.0 or in a simultaneous tri-national side agreement, to investing a minimum of 2% of gross domestic product annually on transportation infrastructure construction, repair and maintenance. Especially along our two borders, the bridges and interchanges should be upgraded as part of NAFTA modernization.

Finally, to protect our members, we unanimously request that you enshrine the principle of exclusivity into the cross-border services chapter. Freight rail crew changes happen at the border, at the interchanges. Our members have no interest, at the expense of their brothers and sisters in companion unions, to drive their trains deep into the territory of another Party.

We commend you for the progress you have made so far in modernizing the NAFTA. We hope that you reach a final agreement that will keep the freight rail trade flows growing and increase the incomes of our members and all workers in North America.

For Fair Trade,

**Dennis Pierce**  
TRC President

**Douglas Finnson**  
TCRC President

**Victor Flores**  
STFRM President