



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

January 5, 2023

Ms. Katie Farmer  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
BNSF Railway  
2650 Lou Menk Drive  
Fort Worth, TX 76131

Mr. Joseph Hinrich  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
CSX Transportation, Inc.  
500 Water Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Ms. Tracey Robinson  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Canadian National Railway  
935 de La Gauchetiere Street  
West Montreal, Quebec H3B 2M9

Mr. Patrick Ottensmeyer  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Kansas City Southern Railway  
427 West 12th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64105

Mr. Keith Creel  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Canadian Pacific Railway  
7550 Ogden Dale Road SE  
Calgary, AB T2C 4X9

Mr. Alan Shaw  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Norfolk Southern Railway  
650 West Peachtree Street NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308

Mr. Ian Jefferies  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
425 Third Street SW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20024

Mr. Lance M. Fritz  
Chairman, President, & Chief Executive Officer  
Union Pacific Railroad  
1400 Douglas Street  
Omaha, NE 68179

Dear Mses. Farmer and Robinson, and Messrs. Jefferies, Creel, Hinrich, Ottensmeyer, Shaw, and Fritz:

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requires the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to initiate audits of the training, qualification, and certification programs of locomotive engineers and conductors, as required by 49 CFR Parts 240 and 242. These audits will include a focus on determining whether such programs provide locomotive engineers and conductors the knowledge, skill, and ability to discharge their responsibilities safely—a cornerstone for the safety of rail operations.

Over the last year and a half, FRA has reviewed several programs submitted by railroads. FRA has taken a collaborative approach to these program reviews, providing specific, detailed comments regarding compliance with the regulation. Some programs have been reviewed by

FRA several times, and in some cases, the revisions to a program barely made incremental progress toward correcting the deficiencies that FRA took great care detailing in successive letters to the railroad.

To encourage full compliance, please be advised that FRA is committed to pursuing enforcement action if a railroad's resubmitted certification program continues to fail to address the deficiencies identified by FRA. Accordingly, whenever FRA conducts its audit of your railroad, FRA will take into account those opportunities FRA has already provided your railroad to correct or address previously identified deficiencies.

I want to remind industry that the quality and adequacy of these certification programs are fundamental to ensuring that your operating crews are properly trained to safely perform their assigned duties. This starts with certification programs that clearly meet the minimum training and qualification standards.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Christian B. Holt, Staff Director, Operating Practices Division, at [Christian.Holt@dot.gov](mailto:Christian.Holt@dot.gov) or 202-366-0978. In addition, a copy of this letter is being sent to the president of each labor organization representing your affected employees.

Sincerely,



Amit Bose  
Administrator

cc:

Mr. Jeremy Ferguson, President, SMART-Transportation Division

Mr. Eddie Hall, National President, BLET