

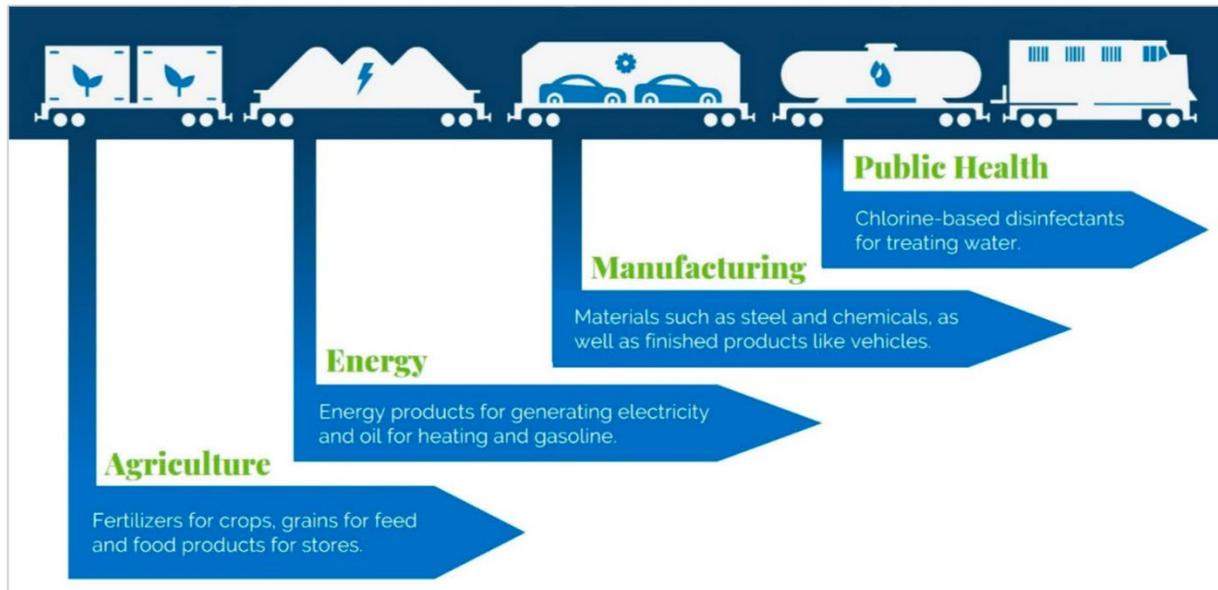
Dear Freight Rail Advocate,

During this unprecedented pandemic, the importance of the global supply chain has come into even clearer focus. An integrated network of planes, trains, ships and trucks deliver, on average, 54 tons of goods per American each year.

There are many news reports about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on air travel and passenger rail. From a freight rail perspective, though traffic is less than it was a year ago and there is evidence that the coronavirus is impacting pieces of the overall supply chain, railroads are strongly committed to ensuring continuity of service and moving the goods necessary to help us through this crisis.

As you know, freight railroads deliver raw materials and goods of all kinds, including those essential to preserving public health and our well-being – things like chemicals required for medicines and food packaging, chlorine-based disinfectants for water, energy products that support electricity demands, retail goods like toilet paper and cleaning products, and municipal waste. Additionally, railroads originate around 60,000 carloads of food and agricultural products a week.

In fact, railroads are among the “Community Lifeline” sectors designated by the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency because they are necessary to enabling the continuous operation of critical government and business functions and are considered essential to human health, safety and economic security.



To keep the trains running during this national crisis, railroads are taking a number of steps, including:

- Asking the U.S. Department of Transportation to ensure they can continue operation without undue restrictions during this crisis, as well as monitoring guidance from all levels of government;
- Activating secondary dispatch and operations locations as well as restricting access to mission-critical locations to only essential staff in order to expand social distancing efforts while maintaining vital functions;
- Transitioning employees to telework to reduce density at work locations, especially at highly populated headquarters; and
- Taking precautions to protect the health of the nearly 150,000 skilled professionals that keep the rail network running, including expanding the frequency of cleaning and sanitation, restricting air travel, directing employees to stay home when sick, providing accurate information and promoting effective hygiene practices.

The freight railroads are in constant communication with federal, state and local agencies and are holding daily calls among cross-functional teams to share information and best practices to keep railroad employees safe and continue delivering necessary and essential goods and materials.

I hope you find this update useful as you reassure your constituents that basic services will be maintained. We will continue to share rail and logistics updates as new information is made available.

Thank you for your support of the Nations freight rail network.

Melissa Jo Knepper, State Director

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GoRAIL unites community leaders and organizations in support of a stronger economy, effective solutions to highway congestion, a cleaner environment, and improved quality of life by advocating for increased use of freight railroad transportation.