

DAVE TROTT

11TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2211**

E. Hunter Harrison  
CSX President and Chief Executive Officer  
500 Water Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

CC: Ellen M. Fitzsimmons

October 25, 2017

Dear Mr. Harrison:

I write with great concern about the serious disturbance and safety issues that CSX trains have been causing my constituents in Plymouth, Michigan.

This fall, my constituents began to regularly notify my office of CSX Transportation blocking crossings for extended periods of time—in one case, on Monday, October 23, for nine hours. These unexplained, and increasingly frequent delays have caused major disruption in the daily lives of my constituents. Citizens of Plymouth have been stuck at crossings with infants in their cars, local schools are now excusing resulting tardiness for students and staff, and emergency crews have even had to take the extraordinary step of coming up with contingency plans in case there's a fire or catastrophe during a railroad blockage. What was once a disturbance, has now become a significant public safety issue.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time the citizens of Plymouth have had to deal with CSX Transportation blocking their roads. In April 2016, my constituents experienced a situation similar to the one they are facing today. It is with regret that these blocked railroads have now become an annual event, with still no sufficient explanations as to why they are commonplace and how they can be prevented.

While Plymouth covers approximately two square miles, it contains seven railroad crossings and could be subject to being blocked off completely if all railroad crossings are obstructed—a disturbing situation that my constituents have already been put through.

My office, as recently as yesterday, has received assurances from your federal relations team that these unreasonable delays will cease by the end of the week. It is my sincere hope that you appreciate the significant safety threat that citizens of Plymouth have been unfairly subjected to. I stand ready to assist you with any support my office can offer in order to reach a swift solution to this untenable situation, now entering its second week.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Trott", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dave Trott  
Member of Congress