May 12, 2014

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Maine Municipal Association supports a May 8, 2014 letter from Karen Darch, President, Barrington, IL and Mayor Tom Weisner of Aurora, IL, pertaining to needed improvements in railroad safety.

We applaud the time and attention your administration is devoting to tank car safety. The end result needs to be similar to Canada's ban on unsafe tank cars. The repetitive pattern of recent railway accidents on both sides of the border proves the need for banning the DOT-111 tank cars in both countries. Without similar restrictions in the U.S., the tank cars banned in Canada may well end up here, compounding an already unacceptable risk.

There are 59 Maine communities with railroad service, many with tracks through the downtown areas. While oil traffic in Maine ceased following the Lac-Megantic tragedy, it could begin again unexpectedly. Help us improve the public safety. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Nielsen
President, Maine Municipal Association

pc: The Honorable Anthony Foxx
    The Honorable Susan Collins
    The Honorable Angus S. King, Jr.
    The Honorable Chellie Pingree
    The Honorable Michael Michaud