Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
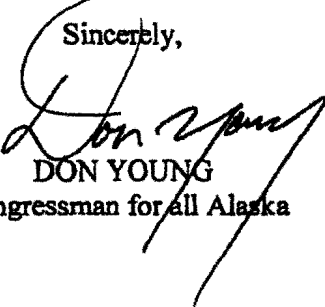**Washington, D.C. 20515**

February 28, 2013

Mr. Christopher Aadnesen
President and CEO
Alaska Railroad
327 W. Ship Creek Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Aadnesen:

Thank you for keeping us up to speed on your progress toward implementing the federal Positive Train Control mandate. As you well know, Congress mandated PTC in the 2008 Rail Safety Improvement Act and it has been on the "10 Most Wanted Safety Recommendations" of the National Transportation Safety Board since 1990. I realize implementing this project is a tremendous challenge for our Alaska Railroad and that the entire railroad industry subjected to this mandate is struggling with the untested technology, high cost and looming deadline.

I am encouraged to hear that the Alaska Railroad is seeking state funding support for this project in order to maintain its critical passenger transportation service just as other passenger railroad's have done in the U.S. that are subject to this Safety mandate. I understand there may be a view within the Legislature that the Alaska Congressional Delegation may be able to get enacted a special exemption for the Alaska Railroad from the PTC safety requirement. I wish to clarify that enacting such an exemption is not on the Congressional horizon, especially for an NTSB Most Wanted Safety Recommendation. While there is a possibility that Congress may extend the current 2015 deadline by several years, something I strongly support, there is virtually no likelihood of a special Alaska exemption, especially given the current Congressional rules barring provisions that name specific entities or localities for specialized treatment. I hope this helps to clarify the matter and I am hopeful our state can help with this pressing matter.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG
Congressman for all Alaska