

Chairs DeFazio and Payne, Jr. Request GAO Study on the Impacts of Precision Scheduled Railroading

On May 13, 2021 The House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure announced the following:

Chairs DeFazio and Payne, Jr. Request GAO Study on the Impacts of Precision Scheduled Railroading on Workers, Safety and Shippers T&I Chairs to GAO: “Stakeholders are concerned that the rise of the PSR model has come at the expense of long-term capital investments, reduced rail infrastructure, affected service for some shippers, and caused dramatic workforce cuts and safety concerns”

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Chair of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Donald M. Payne, Jr. (D-NJ) are requesting the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) to examine the impacts that the implementation of precision scheduled railroading (PSR) by Class I railroads is having on workers, safety, freight shippers, passenger railroads, and long-term management of the nation’s railroads.

“PSR in practice means the bottom line drives the decisions,” said Chair DeFazio. “Longer trains, unhappy shippers, and a workforce pushed to do more with less is not a model to chase after – unless you’re on Wall Street. But we can’t let hedge fund managers write the rules of railroading. Last Congress, my Committee heard from various stakeholders concerned for the immediate and long-term impacts of PSR. This study, passed by the House last year in my surface transportation reauthorization bill, the INVEST in America Act, will help us find ways to address the impacts this railroad management strategy has on workers, freight shippers, passenger railroads, and rail safety.”

“Precision scheduled railroading is being used more and more throughout the rail industry,” said Rep. Donald M. Payne, Jr. “But I am concerned that this strategy could come at the expense of worker safety and smart, long-term railroad management. We need more information about this practice to determine whether it is beneficial or harmful to our nation’s railroad system.”

The full letter text can be found below and [here](#).

Our PSR Survey is still open, please respond to any issues that you may be having regarding the implementation of Precisions Scheduled Railroading at this mailbox PSRSurvey@ibew.org