

Rail union becomes first to authorize strike, threatening supply chain

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More than 115,000 rail workers are legally allowed to strike as of Friday, a move that would shut down the transport of food, fuel and other goods.

WASHINGTON, DC - Nearly 5,000 railway workers at the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) voted to reject a tentative contract agreement with railroads and authorize a strike, the union said Wednesday.

The vote reveals that rail workers are not satisfied with the agreement, which calls for 24 percent raises and back pay but doesn't address workers' demands for more predictable scheduling and the ability to take time off for doctors' appointments without being penalized.

IAM said that it would delay strike action until Sept. 29 at noon to allow union leaders to continue negotiations with railroads.

[Read the developing story here](#) .