BUILDING AMERICA®

August 7, 2026

Lauren Johnson, Fire Chief
Portland Fire & Rescue
55 SW Ash St
Portland, OR 97204

Re: Union Pacific Operations Near Centennial Mills Structure

Dear Chief Johnson:

Union Pacific Railroad Company (Union Pacific) appreciates the City of Portland's (City), Portland Fire & Rescue, the Portland Police Bureau, and all emergency responders who have diligently responded to the Centennial Mills fire to protect public safety.

On August 2, 2026, Portland Fire & Rescue established a safety perimeter surrounding the affected property due to concerns regarding the condition and stability of the remaining structure. As currently configured, the safety perimeter extends across approximately 50 feet of railroad right-of-way, including Portland Terminal Railroad Company's Track 1 and Track 2. The establishment of this perimeter has effectively suspended rail operations through the affected area, preventing Union Pacific freight service, impacting passenger service, and other rail movements from operating on the affected corridor.

Throughout this event, Union Pacific personnel have remained in regular communication with Incident Commander Jason Andersen and other public officials regarding site conditions and impacts to railroad operations. Union Pacific recognizes and respects the challenges presented by this incident, including concerns regarding the condition of the remaining structure and the rooftop water tower. At the same time, Union Pacific must also consider the extent this closure has disrupted passenger rail service between Portland and Seattle, and the freight transportation supporting regional industries, ports, intermodal facilities, and customers throughout the region.

The post-fire structure has remained left standing well past City code standard:

> *"It is unlawful for any owner or persons in control of any such structure *** that has been damaged by fire, to leave any portion of the structure unsupported for more than 1 hour, if such section is liable to collapse or is in any way a danger to the public. In no event may a portion of the structure be left unsupported for more than 24 hours." Portland City Code 24.55.100*

Union Pacific understands the City just issued a Notification of Dangerous Structure and Order to Demolish to the property owner on August 6. The notice orders the property to only "begin" demolition by no later than August 14, 2026, without an indication of a completion date. Continued interruption of rail operations, with no end date, places great burden on the movement of consumer goods, agricultural products, industrial materials, and other commodities essential to the City, public, and regional economy.

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
301 NE 2nd Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97232

Erik Erickson
General Manager, Operating
Pacific Northwest Service Unit

Because Union Pacific must also consider the significant transportation, economic and public service impacts associated with the continued closure of this critical rail corridor, which serves as a transportation link for freight and passenger operations across the Pacific Northwest, Union Pacific plans to resume rail operations through the affected corridor effective August 9, 2026.

As part of that effort, Union Pacific will:

- Position qualified railroad personnel (e.g., flaggers) in the affected area of Centennial Mills site during train operations;
- Place stationary loaded ballast cars on the eastern track;
- Operate trains at reduced speeds, not to exceed 10 mph, through the affected corridor;
- Conduct appropriate inspection of the affected corridor prior to the resumption of service;
- Restrict loaded cars with toxic inhalation hazard and poison inhalation hazard from operating on the affected corridor through August 21, 2026; and
- Continue working collaboratively with the City and other stakeholders to resume all rail operations and coordinate with City officials regarding developments that may affect railroad operations or public safety.

Union Pacific believes these measures appropriately address current conditions while allowing the restoration of critical freight and passenger rail service through this corridor. Union Pacific appreciates the City's continued cooperation and welcomes the opportunity to discuss any questions regarding the planned resumption of rail operations.

Regards,

Erik Erickson
General Manager, Operating
Pacific Northwest Service Unit