

## **Congress Passes Bill to Avert Rail Strike**

This week, Congress passed legislation that will force labor unions to accept a tentative labor agreement reached earlier this year between railroad managers and workers to avert a rail strike. The parties had until Dec. 9 to reach an agreement before workers promised a nationwide strike.

The bipartisan bill passed the House with a 290-137 vote and the Senate with an 80-15 vote. The bill was supported by President Biden over concerns that a rail strike would cause supply chain bottlenecks, food shortages, transportation delays and other disruptions to the U.S. economy. President Biden is expected to sign the bill into law shortly.

## **IRS Warns Business of Cyber Threats During Tax Security Awareness Week**

To wrap up [National Tax Security Awareness Week](#), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) urged businesses to remain vigilant against cyberattacks aimed at stealing their customer's personal information and other business data. The IRS continues to see instances where small businesses and others face a variety of identity-theft related schemes that try to obtain information that can be used to file fake business tax returns. For example, phishing schemes continue to target businesses as well as tax professionals and individual taxpayers.

Businesses are encouraged to follow best practices from the Federal Trade Commission, including:

- Use multi-factor authentication.
- Set security software to update automatically.
- Back up important files.
- Require strong passwords for all devices.
- Encrypt devices.

More information is available at FTC's [Cybersecurity for Small Businesses](#). Businesses should be alert to phishing email scams that attempt to trick employees into opening embedded links or attachments. IRS related scams may be sent to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov) so the IRS can try to track, stop or disrupt scams.