

February 10, 2022
Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd.
Kawasaki Railcar Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

Regarding the Derailment of the WMATA Rail Cars

On February 9, 2022 (U.S. time), the U.S. Congress held a public hearing on the business operations of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). During the hearing, WMATA stated that Kawasaki Rail Car, Inc. (KRC), a Kawasaki Group company, had not submitted a "failure analysis report" on the back-to-back wheel spacing failures that have occurred on 7000 Series wheelsets beginning in 2017, until December 2021.

The same back-to-back wheel spacing failures had also occurred in rail cars manufactured by other companies that had been delivered and operated before the Kawasaki-made 7000 Series. As a result, in 2017 the originally contracted press-fitting force of the wheel and axle was changed to address the issue as proposed and approved by WMATA, and KRC thereafter