

# United States Senate

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The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott, III  
Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman Elliott:

We are writing in regard to the rail rate reasonableness case in STB Docket No. 42142, *Consumers Energy Company v. CSX Transportation, Inc.* This proceeding involves rates charged by CSXT for coal delivery service from Chicago to Consumers Energy's J.H. Campbell Generating Station near West Olive, Michigan.

Consumers Energy is a Michigan public utility responsible for providing electric service to more than 1.8 million residential and commercial customers throughout the state's Lower Peninsula. The Campbell Station uses low sulfur fuel from Wyoming's Powder River Basin to generate much of that electricity. While Consumers Energy has competitive alternatives for rail transportation from the Wyoming mines to Chicago, the Chicago-to-West Olive segment is operated exclusively by CSXT. As you know, federal law provides that when a shipper has no effective transportation competition, it is the Board's responsibility to ensure that rail rates remain "reasonable." Like other power supply costs, the rail rates paid to CSXT pass directly through to Consumers Energy's customers in their monthly electric bills.

On behalf of Michigan rate payers, we urge the Board to give this case appropriate consideration to ensure that these rail rates are reasonable. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator