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The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott, III  
Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street SW, Suite 1220  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Dear Chairman Elliott:

I am writing to convey the concerns of Michigan's agricultural community about the state of rail service in our State.

Rail backlogs have put the full agribusiness supply chain in a very difficult situation. Many farmers in Michigan have still been unable to secure transport for last year's harvest. With much of that harvest sitting in bins and record crops projected for later this year, it's critical that the Surface Transportation Board continue to work with providers to facilitate rail access and help relieve pressure on farm storage capacity.

Other farmers and businesses are waiting on inbound shipments of essential resources like fertilizer. Due to the time sensitive nature of fertilizer applications, producers are concerned that rail delays will compromise their ability to meet the application windows during which the nutrients from fertilizer are the most effective.

I appreciate the attention you have given to the needs of agriculture during this growing season. It is my hope that the Board will continue to do everything in its power to ensure that agricultural communities in Michigan have the rail access they need to keep feeding and fueling the country and world.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator  
Chairwoman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry