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Most Loved Chicken

Cagle's, Inc.

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The Honorable Dan Elliott
Chairman, Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Subject: Public Hearing on Revisiting Railroad Regulatory Exemptions
DocketNO. EP 705:

Dear Chairman Elliott:

My name is Mark Ham and I have worked 35 years for Cagle's Inc., a publically traded, family controlled poultry company founded in 1945. While located mainly in the southeast our company does business across our nation and in over 20 countries around the world supporting jobs in our supply chain ranging from our nation's farmers to those working in our largest shipping ports and many, many other industries. We rely on CSX railroad to supply our feed mill in excess of 12 million bushels of corn per year utilized in feeding our 14 million plus head of live poultry that we feed at any one time. Without timely delivery and competitive prices from our rail providers our animals are without feed, we are out of business, and our 2,000 plus employees are out of work.

A healthy rail network supports job growth and continued economic recovery and I oppose any policy that will hinder the freight railroads' ability to continue to invest billions of dollars in private capital to grow and modernize our nation's rail system. I urge the STB to focus its resources on actions that will encourage investment and promote this country's continued economic growth and recovery.

Our country was founded on the basis of free enterprise and any regulation that stifles competition has the potential to harm innovation and growth across all industry.

Respectfully,

Mark M. Ham IV
Executive Vice President - Chief Financial Officer
Cagle's Inc.