

# Circle Ranch

S. Oren Starnes  
Founder  
1924-1987

April 11, 2011

Samuel O. Starnes  
President

Honorable Dan Elliot  
Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Suite 1220  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Dear Chairman Elliot:

The intent of this letter is to file comments in anticipation of the STB railroad competition hearing (Docket #EP 705) scheduled for June 22, 2011.

I am writing to express Circle S Ranch's support for a strong freight railroad network across the nation.

Because of their tremendous impact on the U.S. economy and the increasing growth opportunities for the industry, I believe any attempts to re-regulate railroads will have an extremely negative impact on our country.

North America's freight railroads have announced plans to invest more than \$12 billion in 2011 to enhance and maintain their infrastructure. As you know, each \$1 billion spent on rail infrastructure supports 20,000 jobs. Under the current, reasonable regulatory environment, U.S. freight railroads are creating jobs and improving their infrastructure throughout the nation.

Freight rail is the most capital intensive industry in the nation, and it is imperative that continued reinvestment be encouraged. With everyone under pressure to expand the economy and create jobs, any action by the Surface Transportation Board to adopt policies that would discourage private investment would be counterproductive.

I appreciate your consideration of my concerns, and hope the Board will work to ensure a healthy freight rail network that continues to provide a true public benefit to our nation.

Sincerely,



Samuel O Starnes  
President

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