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Joint Industrial Development Authority

of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat

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April 7, 2011

EX Parte 705

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

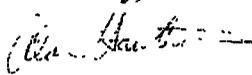
Dear Chairman Elliot:

I am writing to express the Joint Industrial Development Authority's support for a strong freight railroad network, not only in our region and state, but across the nation. As a small rural community with an economic development focus around advanced manufacturing, access to efficient and effective rail service helps us compete in the global environment.

As America finally begins to pull itself out of the Great Recession, we like forward to a growing economy and increased employment opportunities. We support a healthy freight rail network that helps create job growth and continued economic recovery.

We respectfully request that you support a strong and competitive rail industry. We need this effective transportation option to maintain and increase our ability to compete in the global economy.

Thank you for our consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

Alan Hawthorne
Executive Director

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