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March 30, 2011

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

Dear Chairman Elliot:

On behalf of the Franklin County Area Development Corporation (FCADC), I am writing in support for a strong freight railroad network, not only in our state/region, but across the nation.

As America finally begins to pull itself out of the Great Recession, we do not need to reverse progress by damaging the ability of the rail industry to reinvest and continue to provide strong service.

We at the FCADC support a healthy freight rail network that encourages reinvestment by the rail industry, supports job growth, and continued economic recovery. Franklin County is experiencing the benefit of strong rail systems with the presence of a CSX Intermodal Terminal in Chambersburg, which is part of the National Gateway Initiative; and the commitment of Norfolk Southern to construct an intermodal terminal in Greencastle as part of the Crescent Corridor. The respective facilities stand to create a regional economic impact in the tens of millions of dollars that includes the creation of more than 5,000 jobs.

We oppose any policy or regulatory changes that would hinder the freight railroads' ability to continue investing billions of dollars annually in private capital to grow and modernize the nation's rail infrastructure. We respectfully request that no regulatory or policy changes be pursued at this time by the STB. We need to maintain the strong and well-balanced regulatory regime we have in place today.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

L. Michael Ross, EDP
President

C: FCADC Board of Directors