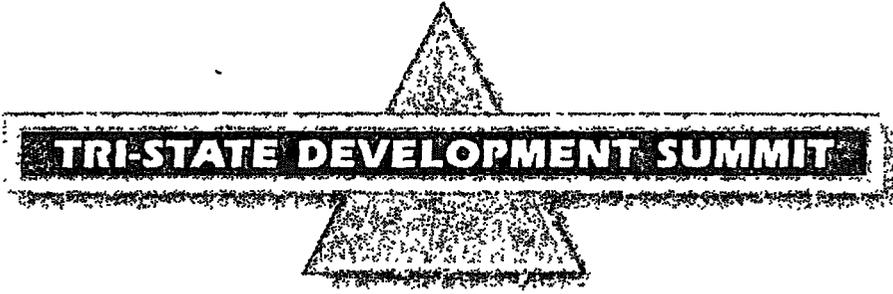


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March 30, 2011

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

Dear Chairman Elliot,

I am writing to express the Tri-State Development Summit's support for a strong freight railroad network, not only in our region, but across the nation. The Tri-State Development Summit is a three state, 35-county initiative that brings together area leaders to address common issues and improve the quality of life of the entire region through economic development activities.

The Summit represents nearly 700,000 people and thousands of businesses. Through our transportation taskforce, we have worked together to complete 1,000 miles of four-lane highways to move goods and people in and out of our region. We also support a healthy freight rail network that encourages reinvestment by the rail industry and supports job growth and continued economic recovery.

Our location in the heart of the Midwest means it is imperative that we access transportation networks including the freight rail system to be competitive in the national and international marketplace. Therefore, 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,

Jim Mentesti
Tri-State Development Summit Facilitator