



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:

Over 26 million tons of freight move through the Alabama State Port Authority supporting import and export needs for many regional companies. Our port is fortunate to have access to all modes of transportation, truck, barge, and rail service by five Class 1 railroads. One of the most important factors is the attempt to put as much cargo as possible on modes other than highway due to shortage in highway funds.

We are very pleased to hear reports that the nation's major freight railroads are spending record amounts of money on capital to improve their ability to competitively and efficiently move America's freight. The health of these freight railroads is paramount for them to continue this capital spending and to help lead this economy out of this terrible recession.

We are opposed to any policy or regulatory change that would hinder these freight railroads in their ability to invest in infrastructure. We respectfully request that no regulatory or policy changes be pursued at this time by the Surface Transportation Board. We need to maintain a strong and well balanced regulatory regime that we have in place today in order to insure that our nation's need to move goods is met.

Thank you for consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

James K. Lyons
Director & CEO

c Honorable Richard Shelby
Honorable Jeff Sessions
Honorable Jo Bonner
Honorable Mike Rogers

Honorable Robert Aderholt
Honorable Spencer Bachus
Honorable Martha Roby
Honorable Mo Brooks
Honorable Terri Sewell
Honorable Marc Keahey
Honorable Vivian Davis Figures
Honorable Rusty Glover
Honorable Ben Brooks