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April 13, 2011

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

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Dear Chairman Elliot:

On behalf of the Waterfront Coalition, I am writing to express support for a strong freight railroad network throughout the nation. As America continues to recover from the recent economic downturn, we do not need to reverse progress by hindering the ability of the rail industry to reinvest in their network and continue to provide strong service.

By way of background, the Waterfront Coalition represents retailers, product suppliers, manufacturers and agricultural producers moving international commerce through America's blue water ports. A significant portion of the nation's international trade transiting marine terminals ultimately moves on to its final destination by way of the freight rail network. Waterfront Coalition shippers and the U.S. economy depend on this swift delivery of cargo to fulfill orders overseas and ensure that products reach store shelves and factory floors in the U.S.

The Waterfront Coalition supports a healthy freight rail network and encourages reinvestment by the rail industry to sustain continued economic recovery and job growth.

We oppose any policy or regulatory changes that would lessen the freight railroads' ability to continue investing billions of dollars in private capital to grow and modernize the nation's rail infrastructure to meet the needs of all rail customers. Specifically, any policy changes to address rate and service concerns for one segment of customers could result in rate increases and service delays for all other customers. These are changes that could jeopardize economic recovery and employment growth. We respectfully request that no regulatory or policy changes be pursued at this time by the STB.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

Robin Lanier
Executive Director