



2016 NOV -2 AM 10:50

JIM TRACY
SENATOR

14TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
BEDFORD, LINCOLN, MARSHALL
MOORE & RUTHERFORD COUNTIES

NASHVILLE OFFICE
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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243

Senate Chamber
State of Tennessee

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EP 711-1
242018

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CHAIRMAN

MEMBER OF COMMITTEE
COMMERCE & LABOR
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1-800-449-8366

E-MAIL ADDRESS
sen.jim.tracy@capitol.tn.gov

October 26, 2016

The Honorable Steve Cohen
US Congressman
1005 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515-4209

ENTERED
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November 2, 2016
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Public Record

Dear Steve:

I am the chairman of the Tennessee Senate Transportation Committee. I am writing to convey my concern about the Surface Transportation Board's proposed railroad access regulations, which would undermine the resilience of the American economy by diminishing the strength of the rail industry.

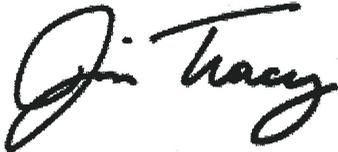
It is critically important that businesses have reliable and uninterrupted access to efficient freight transportation to ensure products are able to compete nationally and globally. Tennessee is known for its business-friendly climate, and our state is blessed to be home to many employers, large and small, who rely on freight rail. Those industries range from international auto manufacturers to farmers.

The proposed regulations, which would require railroads to provide competitors with access to their rail lines, would compromise the efficiency of the national rail system and slow the overall movement of goods across the nation. While railroads are federally regulated, the STB's proposed actions are taking a step too far into the regulation of private business. I am very concerned that mandating access, rather than allowing private companies to negotiate business relationships among themselves, will negatively impact safety both from an operating standpoint as well as inhibiting their ability to invest in their very capital intensive infrastructures.

Businesses, especially small businesses, rely on swift, predictable shipping options to meet their customers' requirements. By recommending that railroads comply with these regulations, the STB is likely to jumpstart a chain reaction that constricts business activity. This is not just discriminatory toward the railroads, it is also unfair to the businesses, small and large, that form the backbone of the American economy. When those businesses suffer, so do the Tennessee communities that surround them.

I urge the Tennessee Congressional Delegation to carefully consider the potentially disruptive effects of these proposed regulations and the impact they would have on businesses across Tennessee and the nation. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Tracy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Tracy
Tennessee State Senate Transportation Chairman

Copies sent to:

Mr. Daniel Elliott
Chairman
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Mrs. Deb Miller
Vice Chairman
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Mrs. Ann D. Begeman
Board Member
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E-MAIL ADDRESS
sen.jim.tracy@capitol.tn.gov

The Honorable Stephen Fincher
US Congressman
1118 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515-4208

Dear Stephen:

I am the chairman of the Tennessee Senate Transportation Committee. I am writing to convey my concern about the Surface Transportation Board's proposed railroad access regulations, which would undermine the resilience of the American economy by diminishing the strength of the rail industry.

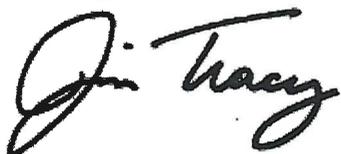
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sen.jim.tracy@capitol.tn.gov

October 26, 2016

The Honorable Diane Black
US Congressman
1531 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515-4206

Dear Diane:

I am the chairman of the Tennessee Senate Transportation Committee. I am writing to convey my concern about the Surface Transportation Board's proposed railroad access regulations, which would undermine the resilience of the American economy by diminishing the strength of the rail industry.

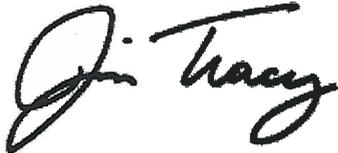
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Tennessee State Senate Transportation Chairman

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sen.jim.tracy@capitol.tn.gov

October 26, 2016

The Honorable Scott DesJarlais
US Congressman
413 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515-4204

Dear Scott:

I am the chairman of the Tennessee Senate Transportation Committee. I am writing to convey my concern about the Surface Transportation Board's proposed railroad access regulations, which would undermine the resilience of the American economy by diminishing the strength of the rail industry.

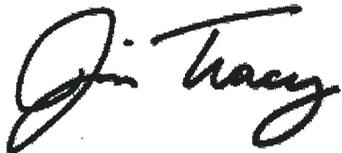
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sen.jim.tracy@capitol.tn.gov

October 26, 2016

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
US Congressman
511 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515-4203

Dear Chuck:

I am the chairman of the Tennessee Senate Transportation Committee. I am writing to convey my concern about the Surface Transportation Board's proposed railroad access regulations, which would undermine the resilience of the American economy by diminishing the strength of the rail industry.

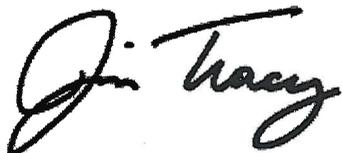
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sen.jim.tracy@capitol.tn.gov

October 26, 2016

The Honorable Phil Roe
US Congressman
419 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515-4201

Dear Phil:

I am the chairman of the Tennessee Senate Transportation Committee. I am writing to convey my concern about the Surface Transportation Board's proposed railroad access regulations, which would undermine the resilience of the American economy by diminishing the strength of the rail industry.

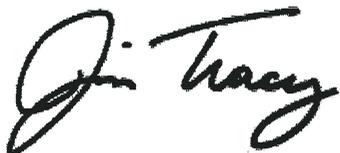
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E-MAIL ADDRESS
sen.jim.tracy@capitol.tn.gov

October 26, 2016

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
US Congressman
217 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515-4207

Dear Marsha:

I am the chairman of the Tennessee Senate Transportation Committee. I am writing to convey my concern about the Surface Transportation Board's proposed railroad access regulations, which would undermine the resilience of the American economy by diminishing the strength of the rail industry.

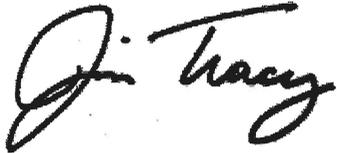
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sen.jim.tracy@capitol.tn.gov

October 26, 2016

The Honorable Jim Cooper
US Congressman
1536 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515-4205

Dear Jim:

I am the chairman of the Tennessee Senate Transportation Committee. I am writing to convey my concern about the Surface Transportation Board's proposed railroad access regulations, which would undermine the resilience of the American economy by diminishing the strength of the rail industry.

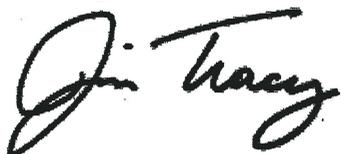
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sen.jim.tracy@capitol.tn.gov

October 26, 2016

The Honorable John Duncan
US Congressman
2207 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515-4202

Dear John:

I am the chairman of the Tennessee Senate Transportation Committee. I am writing to convey my concern about the Surface Transportation Board's proposed railroad access regulations, which would undermine the resilience of the American economy by diminishing the strength of the rail industry.

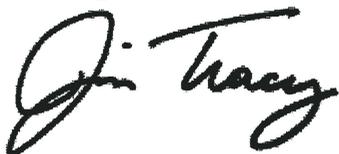
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October 26, 2016

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
US Senate
SD-455 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Lamar:

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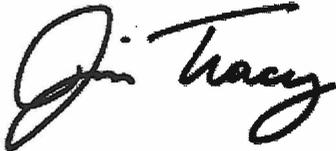
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The proposed regulations, which would require railroads to provide competitors with access to their rail lines, would compromise the efficiency of the national rail system and slow the overall movement of goods across the nation. While railroads are federally regulated, the STB's proposed actions are taking a step too far into the regulation of private business. I am very concerned that mandating access, rather than allowing private companies to negotiate business relationships among themselves, will negatively impact safety both from an operating standpoint as well as inhibiting their ability to invest in their very capital intensive infrastructures.

Businesses, especially small businesses, rely on swift, predictable shipping options to meet their customers' requirements. By recommending that railroads comply with these regulations, the STB is likely to jumpstart a chain reaction that constricts business activity. This is not just discriminatory toward the railroads, it is also unfair to the businesses, small and large, that form the backbone of the American economy. When those businesses suffer, so do the Tennessee communities that surround them.

I urge the Tennessee Congressional Delegation to carefully consider the potentially disruptive effects of these proposed regulations and the impact they would have on businesses across Tennessee and the nation. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Tracy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "T".

Jim Tracy
Tennessee State Senate Transportation Chairman

Copies sent to:

Mr. Daniel Elliott
Chairman
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Mrs. Deb Miller
Vice Chairman
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Mrs. Ann D. Begeman
Board Member
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423



JIM TRACY
SENATOR

14TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
BEDFORD, LINCOLN, MARSHALL
MOORE & RUTHERFORD COUNTIES

NASHVILLE OFFICE
2 LEGISLATIVE PLAZA (214)
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243

October 26, 2016

The Honorable Bob Corker
US Senate
SD-185 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Bob:

I am the chairman of the Tennessee Senate Transportation Committee. I am writing to convey my concern about the Surface Transportation Board's proposed railroad access regulations, which would undermine the resilience of the American economy by diminishing the strength of the rail industry.

It is critically important that businesses have reliable and uninterrupted access to efficient freight transportation to ensure products are able to compete nationally and globally. Tennessee is known for its business-friendly climate, and our state is blessed to be home to many employers, large and small, who rely on freight rail. Those industries range from international auto manufacturers to farmers.

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Senate Chamber State of Tennessee

NASHVILLE

**TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY
CHAIRMAN**

**MEMBER OF COMMITTEE
COMMERCE & LABOR
EDUCATION**

**OFFICE (615) 741-1066
1-800-449-8366**

**E-MAIL ADDRESS
sen.jim.tracy@capitol.tn.gov**

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