



HARRISBURG REGIONAL
CHAMBER & CREDC

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OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN

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November 4, 2016

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

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Dear Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Miller and Member Begeman:

With more than 1,200 members ranging from sole proprietors to Fortune 500 companies, the Harrisburg Regional Chamber & Capital Region Economic Development Corporation (CREDC) represents a strong group of diverse business who are committed to the success of our region and each other. On behalf of our members, the Chamber & CREDC respectfully recommends the Surface Transportation Board to reconsider pending regulations regarding Reciprocal Switching, as we believe the proposed language would negatively impact businesses, customers, and families in our state.

The proposed rules threaten the viability of companies in Central Pennsylvania and across the Commonwealth who rely on dependable and safe rail service, putting their regular and efficient operations of freight railroads at risk. The ability of the freight railroad industry to deliver affordable, efficient rail services is vital, as small businesses, service providers, and others rely on connections to domestic and international markets. Unnecessary and burdensome hurdles should not be placed in front of the rail industry and businesses here in Pennsylvania. This is especially true when data is lacking to support additional regulations, as there is no evidence that the STB proposal will have a positive effect on the railroad industry and communities in our region.

We fear the proposed regulations will surely undermine the financial health and stability of Pennsylvania's rail network and will impact the nation's entire rail system. The Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC strongly urges the Surface Transportation Board to substantially alter or abandon these pending regulations.

Sincerely,

David E. Black
President & CEO

Larissa L. Bailey
Government Relations Manager