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# Ohio General Assembly House of Representatives

October 17, 2016

Docket No. EP 711 (Sub No. 1)

Mr. Daniel Elliott, Chairman  
Mrs. Deb Miller, Vice Chairman  
Mrs. Ann D. Begeman, Board Member  
U.S. Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street SW  
Washington, DC 20423

242022

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
November 3, 2016  
Part of  
Public Record

OFFICIAL TRANSMISSION  
2016 NOV -3 PM 10:15

Dear Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Miller and Member Begeman:

My name is Robert Sprague, and I represent Ohio's 83<sup>rd</sup> House District. My district includes Hancock County, Hardin County, and portions of Logan County. I am writing to share my concerns with the Surface Transportation Board's proposed railroad access regulations, which would diminish the strength of the rail industry.

In order to ensure that they can compete nationally and globally, it is extremely important that businesses have reliable and uninterrupted access to efficient freight transportation. The proposed regulations, which would require railroads to provide their competitors with access to their rail lines, would compromise the national rail system and slow the overall movement of goods across the nation. Businesses rely on efficient and proven shipping options to meet their demand. These proposed regulations are likely to be the start of a chain reaction that constricts business activity. Our businesses, small and large, support our country's economy. These regulations, which would impact the railroad industry and other businesses, could have a negative impact on our country's economy and local communities.

Please carefully consider the possibly negative effects of these proposed regulations on our nation and the State of Ohio. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Robert Cole Sprague  
State Representative  
83<sup>rd</sup> Ohio House District