

MICHAEL E. BUSCH
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

30th Legislative District
Anne Arundel County



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

October 25, 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 D. Begeman
Board Member
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Miller and Member Begeman:

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. Through the Board's newly proposed regulations, the STB is likely to create a more complicated, congested, and inefficient freight rail system.

In Maryland, the regulations could have a dramatic and immediate effect on our port, which partners closely with the freight rail industry to provide efficient, reliable, and affordable connections to international markets.

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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 local communities that surround them.

In Maryland, we are committed to significant infrastructure upgrades to our rail system to improve efficiency and make the Port of Baltimore more competitive. These proposed regulations are a step backward. I urge the board to carefully consider the potentially disruptive effects of these proposed regulations and the impact they would have on businesses across the nation. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Busch
Speaker
Maryland House of Delegates