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OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN

**ALABAMA STATE SENATE  
ALABAMA STATE HOUSE**

**11 SOUTH UNION STREET, SUITE 722**

**MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-4600**

November 2, 2016

**SENATOR DEL MARSH  
PRESIDENT PRO TEM**

STATE HOUSE OFFICE  
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State Senator 12th District  
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Anniston, AL 36202  
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Mr. Daniel Elliott  
Chairman  
U. S. Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman Elliott:

I represent Alabama Senate District 12 and also serve as the Senate President Pro Tempore. 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.

The proposed regulations, which would require railroads to provide their 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. 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, but 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.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Del Marsh", written over a horizontal line.

Senator Del Marsh