

LEE TERRY
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Daniel Elliott, III
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman Elliott:

The Surface Transportation Board (STB) has announced a hearing on rail competition, which will be held on June 22, 2011. The U.S. rail industry is vital to our country's economic competitiveness and our ability to compete in world markets. We have the world's best freight rail system, and it is my hope that you will keep this in mind as you progress with this hearing.

The U.S. freight rail network is unique in the world and unique when it comes to other modes of transportation in the U.S. Not only does it carry more freight than any other mode of transportation, but the industry pays for and finances its own infrastructure and equipment. Moreover, rail is one of the most environmentally friendly ways of moving freight as it is four times more fuel efficient than are trucks. With the government under increasing pressure to expand the economy, and cut wasteful spending, any action by the STB to adopt policies that would discourage private investment in this country's infrastructure would be unwise.

Over the past 30 years, the policies of the STB, and the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) before it, have fostered an atmosphere that has allowed the rail industry to go from near ruin to a great success story. The ICC, and the STB, have maintained a balance of ensuring adequate protection for shippers while allowing the rail industry the ability to grow and help our country compete on a global scale. I hope you will keep this in mind, and that you will continue to maintain the balance in a way that will not restrict this industry's ability to invest and grow and continue to be the best in the world.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee Terry".