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ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN WHIP



JOHN CULBERSON

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April 12, 2011

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The Honorable Daniel Elliott
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
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Washington, DC 20423-0011

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Dear Chairman Elliott:

I read with great interest your intention to hold hearings in June regarding competition in the rail industry. As you know, Houston is an historic rail center and our city's founders chose a locomotive to be featured prominently on the official seal of the City of Houston as a symbol of progress in the fledgling Republic of Texas. That was over 170 years ago, and to this day, the rail industry continues to play an essential role in the Houston economy.

The railroads invest millions of dollars in Texas infrastructure, and they also provide thousands of Texans with well paying jobs and excellent benefits. The average annual compensation for a Houston rail worker is over \$75,000. While other industries are cutting investments in these uncertain times, the railroads are on track to invest record amounts in their infrastructure.

As our economy regains its footing, I urge you to refrain from issuing any new policies that would discourage the continued investment from the railroads. Numerous studies show that freight demand is set to increase exponentially in the coming years, and it is vitally important that this administration encourage investment, not discourage it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Culberson
Member of Congress

JC:shg