

Commonwealth of Kentucky

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25TH SENATE DISTRICT
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ROBERT STIVERS
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Docket No. EP 711 (Sub No. 1)

242019

October 25, 2016

Mr. Daniel Elliott
Chairman
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

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

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

Re: Forced Access Regulations

Dear Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Miller and Member Begeman:

I am the President of the Senate in the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. As I also represent a state senate district located in the coalfields of Eastern Kentucky, I am acutely aware of the impact of railroads on commerce and our economy.

I am writing to convey my concern about the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) proposed railroad access regulations, which would undermine the resilience of the American economy by diminishing the strength of the rail industry.

OFFICE OF PROCEEDINGS
2016 NOV -3 11:10:12

Mr. Daniel Elliott
Mrs. Deb Miller
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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 mandating 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.

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 "Robert Stivers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "S".

Robert Stivers
President
Kentucky State Senate
25th Senatorial District