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Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

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Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing to urge the Surface Transportation Board to make a finding that there is a profound lack of rail-to-rail competition in the national rail system. The STB should change its policies to enable increased rail-to-rail competition.

Currently, anti-competitive practices within the railroad industry have driven costs up on my monthly electric bill. That's not right and the STB can help fix it. In this time of economic stress my ability to pay and keep my head out of water on everything from insurance, food, gas and utilities has been not only a challenge but is a total struggle and failure on some fronts. It is disheartening to know that the railroad industry has jumped on the chance to use their monopoly of this type of transportation to cause us further hardship by their attempt at raising costs to provide the same service, which in turn will cause a chain reaction in many areas of higher utility bills. I do not ask that anyone pay anything for me as I am a responsible person - but I do ask for fair pricing and not gouging. I hope you will consider helping us by investigating this rate hike as to the true intents and reasons for it. I also hope that by changing the policies to enable increased rail-to-rail competition, these prices can go down to a more reasonable amount.

Rural-based business and agriculture rely on affordable electricity. Increased rail competition will help maintain affordable electric rates in rural America and will improve economic opportunities for rural communities like mine.

Increased rail competition will also increase the revenues of American agriculture by improving the ability of producers and manufacturers to ship their products affordably, thus improving exports, creating jobs and improving the standard of living in rural communities.

The Surface Transportation Board has an opportunity to make a positive difference and help improve our economy. The comments that the STB has received include numerous examples of the lack of adequate competition in the railroad industry. I hope the STB will find that there is inadequate competition in the railroad industry and will then revise their policies to enhance rail-to-rail competition in order to help preserve affordable electricity and good jobs throughout America.

Thank you.

Tina Hungerford
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