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GrowthEnergy.org

July 7, 2014

Daniel R. Elliott, III, Chairman
Deb Miller, Vice-Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

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Dear Chairman Elliott and Vice-Chairman Miller,

As you know, Growth Energy is the leading association representing ethanol plants and supporters across the United States. Today's ethanol industry accounts for nearly 400,000 American jobs and more than \$44 billion to the nation's economy.

We appreciate the opportunity to share with you our concerns about the efficient rail delivery of ethanol across the country and the problems that our producers have encountered with the rail industry. Most recently, we are in receipt of your June 20 decision requiring Canadian Pacific Railway and BNSF Railway to resolve backlogs of their grain car orders. We are concerned that this or another order did not directly address the shipment of ethanol. With over 61 percent of all ethanol delivered by rail, it is imperative that these issues be directly addressed and given the same priority as grain shipments.

Earlier this year, we saw ethanol supply dwindle and prices skyrocket solely because of the inability to get rail cars to ship product – even to the point of having many plants reduce production. Ultimately, these service failures hurt the American consumer as these costs are borne in the form of higher gasoline prices, which impact every segment of the American economy.

We want to get low-cost renewable fuels to the American people safely, quickly, and efficiently. We feel as though it is necessary for the Board to immediately act to ensure that the railroads improve their service.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions and we look forward to continuing our work together.

Sincerely,

Tom Buis
CEO, Growth Energy