



# LESLIE A. COMBS

State Representative  
*94<sup>th</sup> Legislative District*

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Oct. 26, 2016

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

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
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Docket No. EP 711 (Sub No. 1)

Dear Mr. Elliott:

I represent the residents of the 94<sup>th</sup> House District, which includes Letcher and Pike Counties in eastern Kentucky. I also serve as chairwoman of the House Budget Review Subcommittee on Transportation and as vice chairwoman of the House Transportation Committee.

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

It is critically important that businesses in Kentucky and across the nation 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 recommending that railroads comply with these regulations, the STB is likely to jumpstart a chain reaction that constricts business activity.

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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,



Leslie Combs  
State Representative  
94<sup>th</sup> District

LAC:sh

cc: Mrs. Deb Miller  
Mrs. Ann D. Begeman