

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

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November 19, 2014  
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The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott III  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E. Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Chairman Elliott:

We write to you today to express our growing concern about the economic and reliability impacts caused by continued coal delivery problems in Wisconsin and the upper Midwest. As we approach another winter—with clear memory of the challenges presented by last year's persistent rail service failures—we ask that the Surface Transportation Board prioritize its oversight activities of coal deliveries to ensure that our constituents are not subject to price hikes and service outages this winter.

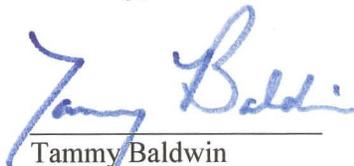
Electric utilities provide vitally needed power to homes and businesses. This demand will only increase as temperatures drop. Power plants in our region are facing dangerously low coal stockpiles – in some cases 60 to 70 percent below contracted levels – due to decreased rail service. These utilities have no choice but to take extraordinary and costly steps to conserve coal by shutting down power plants, restricting operations, and purchasing more costly power from other sources.

We recognize that the STB has recently initiated several important strategies to address this problem. On October 8th, the Board issued Order EP 724, which requires all Class I railroads to publicly file weekly data reports, to promote industry-wide transparency, accountability and improvements in rail service. This is a step forward in better understanding the railroads' various service issues. More transparency will be useful in helping the Board and rail customers better understand current and future service disruptions.

We recommend that if delivery problems persist the Board require all Class I carriers to also submit publicly-available coal service recovery plans to the Board and monitor carriers' implementation progress through weekly public reporting.

We sincerely thank you for your prompt action on this important issue. We look forward to your response to our request and hope to continue working with you to ensure that our region's energy producers are able to receive the fuel supplies for which they have arranged this winter.

Sincerely,



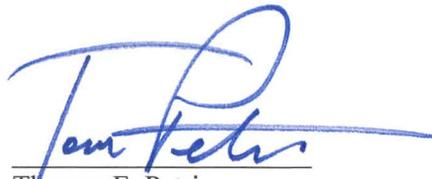
Tammy Baldwin  
U.S. Senator



Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



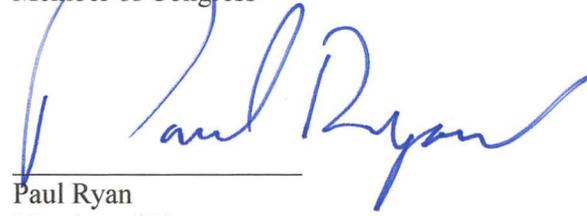
Sean P. Duffy  
Member of Congress



Thomas E. Petri  
Member of Congress



Reid Ribble  
Member of Congress



Paul Ryan  
Member of Congress