

Commonwealth of Kentucky

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



ROCKY ADKINS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
99th Legislative District
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HOUSE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

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CAPITOL ANNEX
Room 309
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October 21, 2016

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

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

Dear Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Miller and Member Begeman:

I represent the 99th District in the Kentucky House of Representatives covering Rowan, Elliot and Lewis Counties. I also serve as House Majority Leader. We have over 2,600 miles of track in the Bluegrass and over 3,000 freight rail employees. The Commonwealth is home to several railroad supply and service companies as well, such as Siemens and R. J. Corman Railroad Group. We are also home to Toyota's largest North American vehicle manufacturing plant located in Georgetown, which relies heavily on freight rail not only to move finished cars out but to bring raw materials such as aluminum and steel in.

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.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
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Memorandum
October 24, 2016

Businesses must have reliable and uninterrupted access to efficient freight transportation to ensure products are able to compete nationally and globally.

The proposed regulations, which would mandate 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. 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 our 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 that reads "Rocky Adkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rocky Adkins, Majority Floor Leader
State Representative
District 99