

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1312

COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES:
COMMITTEE ON
HOUSE ARMED SERVICES
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES
READINESS
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES
AND RISK MANAGEMENT
LIVESTOCK, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND CREDIT

May 7, 2014

The Honorable Daniel R. Elliot, III
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman
Vice Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

236049

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
May 14, 2014
Part of
Public Record

Dear Chairman Elliot and Vice Chairman Begeman:

I would like to comment on the petition by the National Industrial Transportation League to modify TSB standards for mandatory competitive switching. Freight rail is a critical component of our nation's transportation system and I urge you to maintain the existing regulatory balance between the railroads and shippers.

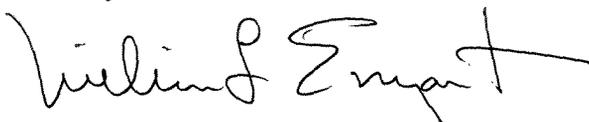
The United States enjoys the most affordable, efficient and environmentally-conscious rail system in the world. Nearly 1.8 trillion ton miles travel over nearly 140,000 miles of track creating and maintaining thousands of jobs while enhancing our economy.

Despite our economic difficulties, over the past five years railroads have reinvested approximately \$115 billion during that period back into their systems. Loss of the current balanced regulatory environment administered by STB would threaten continued investment. Maintaining current regulations will ensure that railroads continue to concentrate their efforts and resources into further enhancing route efficiency and safe operations.

My colleagues on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee report that the U.S. Department of Transportation anticipates a 62% increase in freight shipments between 2011 and 2040. I agree with them that freight rail needs to be able to make the necessary investments in their systems to match the rising demand for capacity. I agree with my colleagues that current regulations allow for the freight railroad industry to continue to enhance and strengthen the U.S. economy.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. I look forward to hearing from you about STB and your plans moving forward with freight rail regulation

Sincerely,



William L. Enyart
Member of Congress

1722 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5661

SIUE East St. Louis Center
Building A, Room 1051
601 James R. Thompson Blvd.
East St. Louis, IL 62201
Tel: (618) 233-8026

23 Public Sq, Ste 404
Belleville, IL 62220
(618) 233-8026

1330 Swanwick St
Chester, IL 62233
(618) 826-3043

2060 Delmar Ave, Ste B
Granite City, IL 62040
(618) 451-7065

201 E Nolen St
West Frankfort, IL 62896
(618) 937-6402

250 W Cherry St
Carbondale, IL 62901
(618) 529-3791

1100 Main St
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
(618) 316-9035