

MONTGOMERY
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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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:

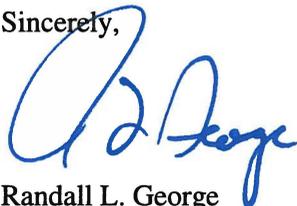
On behalf of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce and our 2,000 members who depend on freight rail, I am writing to express my concern about the current railroad access regulations proposed by the U.S. Surface Transportation Board.

Here in Montgomery and Central Alabama, rail is a critical component in our economic development strategy to create jobs and opportunities for our citizens. That is why we are deeply concerned by the STB's overreaching and unprecedented effort to implement burdensome new rules which would undermine the financial health and stability of our nation's rail network.

The ripple effect of regulations which impede commerce and chill investment in a highly effective freight rail network would be disastrous to communities like ours. Without a well-maintained rail network to rely on, local businesses are less likely to find new customers, hire new workers, or invest in their facilities.

For the sake of communities and trade regions around the country, we urge the STB to abandon or substantially modify these pending regulations that will put jobs and critical infrastructure in jeopardy at a time when our nation needs them most.

Sincerely,



Randall L. George
President

