



**Agmark
Intermodal
Systems, Inc.®**

229159

April 4, 2011

Honorable Dan Elliott
Chairman, Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

EP 705

Dear Chairman Elliott,

I spend millions of dollars each year shipping with railroads. I oppose the re-regulation of railroads. I have lived and worked through the deregulation of both rail and trucking. No informed, thinking person would ever want to go back to what we had. I realize that "this time it is different" but history has proven that more economic freedom is always better than central planning.

It is impossible for government to know what is best for entities as complicated as railroads. It is easy for any of us who feel the competitive pressures of the market to whine to someone that potentially has the power to pick us as a winner over the big bad railroads. My company is massively better off with a modern railroad that makes a profit and invests in its business.

If the STB gets the urge to put its thumb on the scale in favor of those most vocal, think about the cost/benefit of Positive Train Control as an example of a worthwhile idea that has serious unintended consequences. Shippers need the railroads to make their own investment decisions. The profit and loss incentive is all that is needed to appropriately direct investment.

Unfortunately, some markets may not be well served or have higher freight rates due to higher costs. This is normal and is necessary for them to get service at all.

When I think about transportation regulation, I think about the time that I was the only person on an Eastern Airlines plane. The government made Eastern fly that route – right into oblivion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Hagemeyer", written in a cursive style.

Richard Hagemeyer
President