



THE SENATE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

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OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN

WAYNE A. SCHMIDT

37TH DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 30036

LANSING, MI 48909-7536

PHONE: (517) 373-2413

FAX: (517) 373-5144

senwschmidt@senate.michigan.gov

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October 24, 2016

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

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
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Part of  
Public Record

Mrs. Deb Miller Vice Chairman  
U.S. Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street SW  
Washington, DC 20423

Docket No. EP 711 (Sub No. 1)

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 eight counties in northern Michigan, including the eastern part of the Upper Peninsula.

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.

It is critically important that businesses have reliable and uninterrupted access to efficient freight transportation to ensure products are able to compete nationally and globally.

The proposed regulations, which would require 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 the 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,

Wayne A. Schmidt  
Michigan State Senator  
37<sup>th</sup> District