



Office of the Chairman

Surface Transportation Board
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The Honorable John Thune
Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Thune:

Thank you for your letter dated December 14, 2015, regarding Ex Parte 724 (Sub-No. 4), United States Rail Service Issues – Performance Data Reporting. We appreciate knowing your views on this important rulemaking proceeding.

As you probably know, this proceeding is pending before the Board. Although we cannot comment specifically on the proposed metrics outlined in your correspondence, the Board is actively working on this matter. The STB staff recently completed a series of ex parte meetings with railroads, shippers, and other interested stakeholders, which allowed staff to discuss technical issues, gain better insight into the railroads' data-keeping practices and reporting capabilities, and understand the types of data that shippers find most useful. As the Board moves forward with this initiative, please be assured that we will give careful consideration to your views and all of the other comments and input the Board has received throughout this rulemaking.

Again, thank you for sharing your views. We sincerely appreciate your interest in this matter and the overall work of the STB. A copy of your letter and this response will be placed in the docket. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any additional comments or questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel R. Elliott III
Chairman

Ann D. Begeman
Vice Chairman

Deb Miller
Commissioner