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April 20, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Elliott III
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman Elliott:

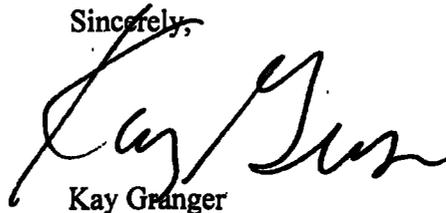
I recently heard of your interest in holding hearings in June regarding competition in the rail industry. As you know, Tower 55 in Fort Worth, Texas, is a vital intersection for the national rail network. It is one of the busiest and most congested rail intersections in the nation with roughly 100 freight and passenger trains crossing the intersection every day. Additionally, Tower 55 is a unique chokepoint in the nation since it impacts so many different industries, shippers and communities.

I represent Fort Worth and can tell you firsthand that one of our top transportation priorities is Tower 55. While other industries are cutting investments in these uncertain times, the rails are on track to invest record amounts in their infrastructure. This investment means jobs for my region. The estimated employment impact of Tower 55 is an average of 900 jobs per year.

As our fragile economy begins to regain its footing, it is vitally important that the administration encourage investment. Therefore, I urge you to refrain from issuing any new policies or regulations that would discourage the continued investment by the railroads.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Kay Granger
Member of Congress