



October 25, 2016

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

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Office of Proceedings
October 26, 2016
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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

Docket No. EP 711 (Sub No. 1)

Dear Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Miller and Member Begeman:

As a representative of the JAX Chamber in Jacksonville, FL, I am writing to express our concerns about the Surface Transportation Board's new efforts to aggressively regulate the railroad industry.

We've witnessed firsthand how freight rail transportation can transform a community into a thriving global logistics hub. The business community in our region has seen tremendous benefits from the rail industry, which connects local businesses to the domestic and global economy and attracts various types of economic development that bring much-needed jobs.

That's why we are concerned by the STB's plan to weaken the railroads' ability to maintain current service levels, deliver goods in an efficient manner, and make critical private investments in track, equipment and maintenance.

Our community cannot afford to lose out on these business opportunities and the long-term economic growth that rail brings. These regulations threaten the economic prosperity of communities like Jacksonville and Northeast Florida which rely on dependable freight rail connections.

I urge you to consider the unintended consequences these regulations may have on Northeast Florida and recommend that the STB halt these pending regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Quinn', written over a white background.

Christopher Quinn
Vice President, Government Affairs
JAX Chamber