



Ohio Senate
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-8150

2016 NOV -9 PM 12: 39

OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN

Cliff Hite
State Senator
1st District

EP 711-1
242020

November 1, 2016

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
November 9, 2016
Part of
Public Record

Mr. Daniel Elliott, Chairman
Mrs. Deb Miller, Vice Chairman
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:

As the State Senator for Ohio's 1st Senate District, I represent eleven counties in Northwest Ohio: Defiance, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams, and portions of Auglaize, Fulton, and Logan counties.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cliff Hite".

Senator Cliff Hite
Ohio's 1st Senate District