

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 8, 2016

The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott, III
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN
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Dear Chairman Elliott:

We are writing to express our interest in the ongoing rail rate reasonableness case brought by Consumers Energy Company in STB Docket No. 42142, *Consumers Energy Company v. CSX Transportation, Inc.* This proceeding involves rates charged by CSXT for coal delivery service from the Chicago area to Consumers' J.H. Campbell Generating Station near West Olive, MI, a distance of some 170 miles.

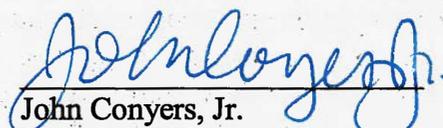
Consumers is a Michigan public utility responsible for providing reliable electric service to over 1.8 million residential and commercial customers throughout the state's Lower Peninsula. The Campbell Station, which is Consumers' largest coal asset, is highly efficient, and through the use of sophisticated emissions control equipment and low sulfur fuel from Wyoming's Powder River Basin, it provides essential electricity to Michigan consumers in full compliance with environmental laws. However, Campbell also faces serious challenges. Among the most significant is the fact that while Consumers Energy has competitive alternatives for rail transportation from the Wyoming mines to Chicago, the Chicago-to-West Olive segment is controlled exclusively by CSXT. The result is that Consumers is forced to pay as much for the 170-mile delivery haul as it does for the entire 1150-mile trip from Wyoming to Chicago. The high charges imposed by CSXT pass directly through to Consumers' ratepayers in their monthly electric bills.

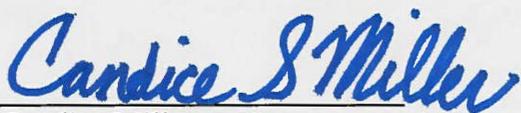
As you know, federal law provides that when a shipper such as Consumers has no effective transportation competition, it is the Surface Transportation Board's responsibility to ensure that the rail rates paid by the shipper are "reasonable." Reasonable rail rates for CSXT service to Campbell are essential to Consumers' achievement of its public mandate to provide reliable electric service at the lowest available cost. Reasonable power prices promote economic growth, and directly support the health and welfare of the citizens of Michigan.

We urge the Board to take a fair and balanced approach to the consideration of Consumers' rate proceeding, and to take seriously its responsibility to protect captive shippers such as Consumers from unreasonable rail rates. We will follow the progress of Consumers' case with interest, and appreciate your consideration of our concerns.

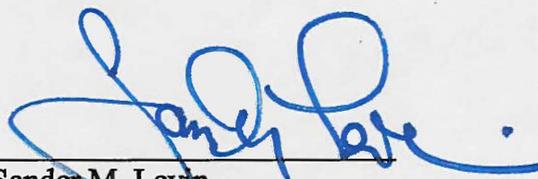
Sincerely,


Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

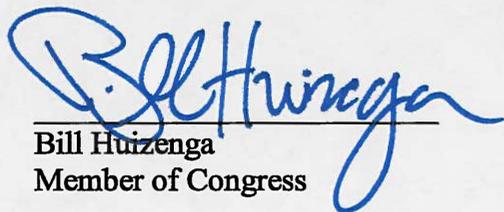

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Member of Congress



Candice Miller
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



Justin Amash
Member of Congress



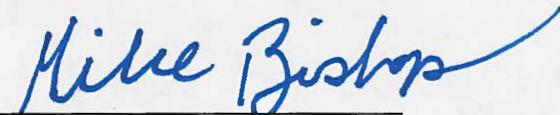
Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek M.D.
Member of Congress



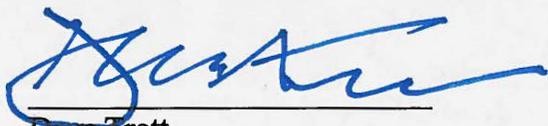
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