

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 17, 2011

Chairman Daniel R. Elliott, III
Surface Transportation Board
Attention: Docket No. EP 704
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: STB Docket No. EP 704

Dear Chairman Elliott:

We write in regards to the Statement and Notice of Intent to Participate filed by Weaver Popcorn Company, Inc. (Weaver), headquartered in Noblesville, Indiana. As Weaver indicated in their filing, the company has plants in both Van Buren, Indiana, and Forest City, Illinois, that employ over 350 people. Additionally, Weaver described their efforts to focus on expanding exports to overseas markets with potential for growth. Currently, Weaver accounts for approximately 32% of the popcorn grown in the United States and almost 25% of the world's popcorn exports, selling popcorn in all 50 states and more than 90 countries worldwide.

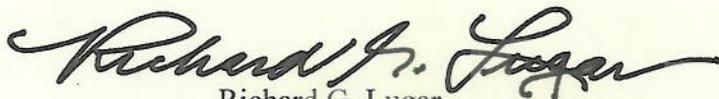
Weaver finds itself at a significant competitive disadvantage to foreign producers in places like Argentina due to net weight restrictions on over the road container shipments. As explained in their filing, Weaver "can ship at most 21 tons on a 20' export container of bulk popcorn. Our Argentine friends, without the same weight restrictions on their own road system, can ship 25-26 tons. This results in, usually, a 20-25% freight subsidy for our Argentina competitors."

In order to become more competitive, Weaver has proposed investing their own funds to allow direct loading onto leased railcars in Van Buren, Indiana. This would allow for larger shipments because the weight restriction necessary for interstate roadways does not apply to rail shipments. As the interstate roadways in Indiana and the Chicago, Illinois, area continue to become more congested, this will also reduce costs associated with delays caused by traffic congestion.

To date, Weaver has been unable to receive approval for direct container loading with their primary Class I rail partner. Because of the inability to reach an agreement, this important Indiana exporter continues to operate at a competitive disadvantage to foreign popcorn producers.

We look forward to your careful review of the issues contained herein in hopes that Weaver Popcorn Company, Inc. may be in a position to better compete with foreign producers.

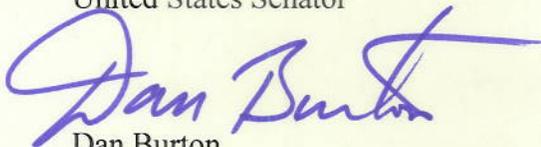
Sincerely,



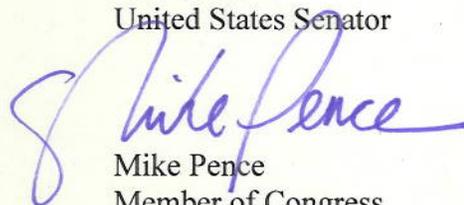
Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator



Dan Coats
United States Senator



Dan Burton
Member of Congress



Mike Pence
Member of Congress

RGL/lgl

Cc: Vice Chairman Charles D. "Chip" Nottingham
Commissioner Francis P. Mulvey