



Office of the Chairman

Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

July 25, 2008

Mr. Richard F. Timmons
President
American Short Line and
Regional Railroad Association
50 F Street, NW, Suite 7020
Washington, DC 20001-1536

Re: Railroad Service Demands

Dear Mr. Timmons:

As has been done in past years, I am writing regarding the railroads' ability to meet peak service demands for rail service and have sent letters similar to this one to the Class I railroad CEOs. I believe it is necessary for the STB to continue its close monitoring of the railroads' service plans, and I request that you share this letter with your major regional members so that the Board will have the benefit of their responses as well as the responses of the Class I railroads on this important topic. Would you please provide your members' service plans for the remainder of the year, including:

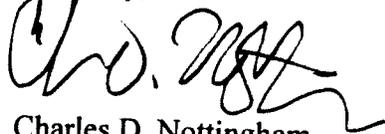
- To the extent your members have been affected by the recent flooding in the Midwest, efforts they have undertaken to restore damaged infrastructure and restore service;
- The steps your members are taking to ascertain demand for and prepare for this year's peak shipping season, with an emphasis on the commodity areas of agriculture (grain, grain products, and ethanol), coal, chemicals, and intermodal;
- A projection, by month, of your members' overall performance goals in the areas of cars-on-line, terminal dwell, train speed, and expected trainmen and engineer employment levels (L600) from September through December of this year;
- Your members' plans for achieving those goals; and
- Your members' plans to communicate the above to customers.

In addition to the information described above, please send me the following capital-related information:

- Your members' capital plans for increasing capacity in 2009;
- Your members' critical capacity-related infrastructure needs; and
- Your members' plans for addressing those critical capacity-enhancing infrastructure needs and your expectation for timely completion of those improvements.

I ask that your members respond to this letter and provide the Board with this information by August 28, 2008. Please keep in mind that, as has been the case in the past, the Board expects to make the responses public. I look forward to those responses and to continuing to work together to ensure that the shipping public has efficient and reliable rail service.

Sincerely,



Charles D. Nottingham
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Francis P. Mulvey
The Honorable W. Douglas Buttrey
Mr. Edward R. Hamberger