

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Herb Kohl
Chairman, Subcommittee on Antitrust,
Competition Policy and Consumer Rights
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rockefeller and Senator Kohl:

The undersigned organizations represent a cross-section of agricultural interests that are dependent on an efficient and competitive rail transportation network for the effective movement of agricultural goods to market.

We recognize and appreciate the work that you and your staffs have done to improve the competitive conditions in the rail industry and bring about meaningful relief for rail shippers. In particular, we want to thank you for your recent agreement to work together to craft a comprehensive piece of rail legislation to be considered by the full Senate this year.

We believe meaningful reform and relief can be best accomplished through passage of comprehensive rail legislation focused on reforming the Surface Transportation Board (STB), improving competitive conditions in the industry, and providing meaningful access to rate and service relief mechanisms. We look forward to working with you toward that end. In light of this year's crowded legislative agenda, we are appreciative of your goal to keep this a high priority for Senate consideration this year.

Thank you once again for your leadership on this important issue. U.S. agriculture stands ready to work with you toward the goal of comprehensive legislation that is critical to the agricultural community.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Soybean Association
Agricultural Retailers Association
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Farmers Union
National Grain and Feed Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Sorghum Producers
The Fertilizer Institute
U.S. Beet Sugar Association
U.S. Dry Bean Council
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Rice Federation