

February 25, 2020

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Vice Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
Board Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Dear Chairman Begeman, Vice Chairman Oberman, and Commissioner Fuchs,

America's freight rail network is one of the world's most inimitable transportation system – ensuring states and localities have cost-effective and efficient access to goods. Indiana is home to 41 freight railroads, nearly 4,000 miles of track, and almost 6,000 employees. To this day, the Surface Transportation Board (STB) directly regulates and maintains broad authority over the network's financial health. As the sole, independent regulatory agency, it is critical for the STB to ensure the railroad network can continue to provide safe, reliable, and sustainable service for its various customers.

I appreciate the STB's efforts to make itself more efficient and transparent for shippers and railroads. However, as you work on these matters, I urge you to maintain the well-balanced economic framework that has been the foundation for the STB's decision-making for decades. As you are aware, many of the issues the STB is considering could have substantial effects on the rail network. Proposals moving through the regulatory process must continue to be grounded in sound economic principles and supported by data-driven empirical analyses. By virtue of a free and open marketplace, the railroads should be able to compete on an equal playing field to other modes of transportation and be incentivized to invest in new infrastructure, enhance rail service, and improve safety.

Under current principles, the rail industry supports thousands of jobs, billions in wages, and invests an average of \$25 billion in private capital annually to maintain and modernize our nation's rail network. Furthermore, these investments have led to rail being recognized as the highest graded form of infrastructure by the American Society of Civil Engineers. I urge that any regulatory structure continue to recognize the importance of the railroads' ability to improve

and maintain their world-class networks. It is vital that the STB advance reforms that will meet the needs of all stakeholders and their demands. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Young", written in a cursive style.

Todd Young
United States Senator