

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF S. 808
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015**

BY THE RAILROAD-SHIPPER TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, under the Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act of 1995, Congress created the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council ("RSTAC") for the purpose of advising Congress, the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Surface Transportation Board (STB) on rail issues; and

WHEREAS, RSTAC is a 15 member council made up of small shippers and small railroads, large shippers and large railroads and representing a balanced cross section of industries that use rail services; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2015, U.S. Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) and U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) introduced S. 808, the Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization Act of 2015; and

WHEREAS, S. 808 would authorize appropriations for the programs of the Surface Transportation Board (STB) and establish the STB as a government agency independent of the Department of Transportation (DOT); and

WHEREAS, S. 808 expands successful voluntary arbitration procedures between rail carriers and their customers to resolve rate cases faster and at less cost, sets timelines for stand-alone cost test evaluations, requires the STB to study more efficient and simplified rate review methodologies consistent with sound economic principles, provides the STB with the authority to initiate certain investigations on matters other than rate cases, requires the STB to establish a database of complaints and quarterly reports, expands board membership from three to five members and, with proper disclosure, allows board members to talk with one another without a prior public hearing notice so long as it complies with certain scope and participation limitations.

NOW THEREFORE, RSTAC by unanimous consent of its 15 members adopts the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, RSTAC thanks Senators Thune and Nelson and the Senate Commerce Committee for their leadership in developing S. 808 to address the concerns important to shippers and railroads; and

RESOLVED, RSTAC fully supports the adoption of S. 808 and urges the Senate to adopt S. 808 to ensure the reforms contained in it will help make the STB a more efficient, effective, and accountable agency for the benefit of shippers and railroads.

Adopted this 13th day of May, 2015