

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 12, 2020

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman  
Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street Southwest  
Washington, DC 20423

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman  
Vice Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street Southwest  
Washington, DC 20423

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The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs  
Board Member  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street Southwest  
Washington, DC 20423

Docket Nos. EP 722 & EP 761

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

I am writing in regard to the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) current review of railroad revenue adequacy.

Before I was elected to the United States Senate, I was a plastics manufacturer for over 30 years who relied on America's freight rail system in my supply chain. I understand that an efficient, reliable and safe national transportation system, including freight rail, is critical for ensuring the free flow of commerce.

As the STB considers the way in which it evaluates railroad revenue adequacy, I urge you to take into account the possible wide-reaching impacts of any new regulations on the overall freight rail system and its many stakeholders. If the STB does not take a balanced approach on this matter, it could unintentionally curb investment in freight rail infrastructure maintenance and expansion. Reductions in freight rail system infrastructure investment could in turn result in the disruption of freight rail service that rail customers depend upon. For these reasons, it is imperative that the STB perform a careful and comprehensive review of this issue that analyzes all of the potential effects.

Thank you for your consideration as the STB continues to assess railroad revenue adequacy. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson  
United States Senator