

# THE STB REAUTHORIZATION ACT: MOVING FREIGHT RAIL FORWARD TO MEET THE NATION'S NEEDS AND GROW A STRONG ECONOMY

*A healthy, efficient and competitive freight rail system is essential to the U.S. economy, but outdated policies that protect railroads at the expense of robust competition and consumer choice have weakened this vital link.*



## Rail Rates Continue to Increase

Defying the basic principles of supply and demand, rail rates have doubled since 2001—increasing at roughly three times the rate of inflation—even though the volume of freight carried by the railroads has barely increased. And, access to competitive and reliable freight rail service has decreased for many manufacturers, farmers, and energy producers across the U.S.



## New Report Highlights Need for Modernization

Experts agree a new approach is needed. A compelling new expert report by the National Research Council calls for fundamental reforms to modernize the nation's freight rail policies. The report adds to a growing body of evidence that new approaches are needed to better serve both railroads and rail customers.



## Rail Customers Call for Reform

Groups representing farmers, steel producers, automobile manufacturers, chemical producers and energy producers across the U.S.—the bulk of freight rail customers—have come together to form the Rail Customer Coalition. This diverse coalition represents industries that provide 4.7 million jobs, contribute \$2.4 trillion in economic output, and operate in nearly every U.S. congressional district. The Coalition supports practical reforms that would allow greater access to competitive freight rail service and that would make the Surface Transportation Board operate more efficiently and effectively for all stakeholders.



## Congress Must Act Now

Congress must act to move freight rail reform forward. The Senate has unanimously approved S. 808, the “Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization Act of 2015,” which contains smart reforms to make the Surface Transportation Board work better for shippers, railroads, and consumers. **It's time for the House to finish the job and adopt these common sense improvements.**

Learn more at [www.freightrailreform.com](http://www.freightrailreform.com)