November 14, 2017

Dear Chairman Thune, Ranking Member Nelson, Chairman Shuster, and Ranking Member DeFazio:

As a follow up to our August 14 letter, the undersigned groups are writing to you on behalf of the Rail Customer Coalition (RCC) to highlight the serious and disruptive rail service problems that many of our member companies continue to experience on the CSX rail network.

The RCC recently sent the attached letter to the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to underscore the ongoing, and in some cases deteriorating, service problems. These includes major service changes imposed with little notice, missed switches and poor communication from CSX. The letter requests a meeting with STB Commissioners to discuss these concerns as well as potential Board actions.

While we appreciate the actions taken to date by the STB, including the October 11 listening session, many problems remain unresolved. We urge Congress and your Committees in particular to examine the CSX service breakdown, and potential means available to the STB to mitigate the adverse impacts to the rail network. The CSX service failures have had a much greater impact on the industry because many businesses are captive customers and do not have any choice when it comes to their rail service provider.
Our members would appreciate additional Congressional oversight of the CSX service disruptions due to the impacts that have been well documented since earlier this year.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers
Alliance for Rail Competition
American Bakers Association
American Chemistry Council
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Forest & Paper Association
American Malting Barley Association
American Petroleum Institute
Association of Global Automakers
The Chlorine Institute
Corn Refiners Association
The Fertilizer Institute
Glass Packaging Institute
Grocery Manufacturers Association
Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association
The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
International Warehouse Logistics Association
Louisiana Chemical Association
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Farmers Union
National Industrial Transportation League
Plastics Industry Association
Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association
Private Railcar Food and Beverage Association
Freight Rail Customer Alliance
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association
The Sulphur Institute
Steel Manufacturers Association
Vinyl Institute

Attachment