Small and large businesses across America depend on railroads to connect them with their customers, which is why a bulk of freight rail customers have come together to form the Rail Customer Coalition. The Coalition supports regulatory reforms at the Surface Transportation Board (STB) that will promote a healthy, reliable and competitive freight rail network.

Congress took an important step by passing legislation to help improve how the STB operates, and now the STB is pursuing much needed changes to adopt free market principles and do a better job resolving long-standing freight rail problems. Members of the Coalition are calling on the Trump administration and Congress to help keep the STB on track and get our nation’s freight rail system back to work for its customers.

Growing Problems
Massive consolidation within the rail industry has left just four railroads in control of 90 percent of the rail traffic in the U.S. Unfortunately, outdated government policies have failed to keep pace with these changes and have left many rail customers without access to competitive transportation options or an effective way to resolve problems with rates and service. As a result, freight rail rates have doubled – more than three times the rate of inflation over the past decade —even though the volume of freight carried by the railroads has barely increased.

Put Competition Back on Track
Competition is the foundation of the free enterprise system and it is what helps drive innovation and cost-savings throughout our economy. At long last the STB has begun to move forward on practical reforms that will remove federal barriers to competition and allow the marketplace to work. Under one of the Board’s proposals, rail customers will for the first time have an effective means to seek competitive bids through reciprocal/competitive switching.

Reducing the Cost of Bureaucracy
The Board is also trying to cut the red tape out of its procedures for resolving rate issues where rail customers lack competitive transportation options. The STB’s current system is a bureaucratic nightmare with recent rate cases taking an average of 5 years and $5 million to complete. This is an unacceptable regulatory hurdle is one that many rail customers cannot afford. The STB should replace its outdated and overly burdensome policies with a market based alternative, such as competitive rate benchmarking. Doing so would dramatically reduce the amount of time and money it takes to address unreasonable rates that are a result of monopoly pricing, and no longer require shippers, railroads and the federal government to sink millions of dollars into rate cases.

STB is on the Right Course
The STB is pursuing much needed changes to adopt free market principles and do a better job resolving long-standing freight rail problems. Congress and the Administration must encourage the Board to keep moving forward on these changes and ensure that individuals that serve on the STB are committed to adopting these long overdue reforms.

Learn more at www.freightrailreform.com
The Rail Customer Coalition (RCC) is a large collection of trade associations representing a broad cross section of manufacturing, agricultural, and energy industries. Their members are essential to a healthy U.S. economy with operations and employees throughout the country – collectively they provide more than 7 million jobs and produce more than $4.8 trillion in economic output.

RCC members are major transportation stakeholders - accounting for more than half of the total volume of cargo shipped by rail and generate more than three quarters of the revenues collected by the railroads. Because a dependable, affordable rail network is so important to their operations, members of the Coalition support practical regulatory reforms that would allow greater access to competitive freight rail service and that would make the Surface Transportation Board more effective in addressing freight rail issues.

Groups Participating in the Coalition Include:

Agricultural Retailers Association
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers
Alliance for Rail Competition
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Chemistry Council
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers
American Forest & Paper Association
American Malting Barley Association, Inc.
American Petroleum Institute
American Public Power Association
Associated Industries of Massachusetts
Chemistry Council of Missouri
Chemistry Council of New Jersey
Chemical Industry Council of California
Chemical Industry Council of Delaware
Chemical Industry Council of Illinois
The Chlorine Institute
Defoamer Industry Trade Association
Edison Electric Institute
The Fertilizer Institute
Freight Rail Customer Alliance
Foundry Association of Michigan
Georgia Chemistry Council
Glass Packaging Institute
Global Automakers
Grocery Manufacturers Association
Growth Energy
Idaho Grain Producers Association
Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association
Industrial Minerals Association — North America
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
International Warehouse Logistics Association
Louisiana Chemical Association
Manufacture Alabama Chemistry Advisory Council
Manufacturers Association of Florida
Massachusetts Chemistry Technology Alliance
Michigan Chemistry Council
Motorcycle Industry Council
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Barley Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Farmers Union
National Industrial Sand Association
National Industrial Transportation League
National Mining Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
National Sorghum Producers
Nebraska Wheat Board
New York State Chemistry Council
Ohio Chemistry Technology Council
Ohio Manufacturers’ Association
Pennsylvania Chemical Industry Council
Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association
Portland Cement Association
Private Railcar Food and Beverage Association
PVC Pipe Association
Resilient Floor Covering Institute
Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association
South Carolina Manufacturers Association
SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association
Steel Manufacturers Association
The Sulphur Institute
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Texas Chemical Council
United States Fashion Industry Association
Vinyl Building Council
The Vinyl Institute
Vinyl Siding Institute
West Virginia Manufacturers Association
Wyoming Wheat Marketing Commission

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