

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Ex Parte 711 (Sub. No. 1)

**Summary of Ex Parte Meeting Between The National Grain and Feed Association
and Surface Transportation Board Member Robert Primus**

March 31, 2022

NGFA Attendees:

- Max Fisher, Chief Economist and Treasurer
- Tom Wilcox, Transportation Counsel to NGFA

STB Attendees:

- Board Member Robert Primus
- Elizabeth McGrath, Attorney Advisor

Meeting Summary

The NGFA representatives thanked Board Member Primus for the opportunity to further discuss the Board's 2016 reciprocal switching proposal. Board Member Primus thanked NGFA for meeting with him and offering NGFA's perspective. Mr. Fisher provided some additional information about the usefulness of existing interchanges and switching arrangements for NGFA members who could benefit from reciprocal switching. It was generally discussed how existing interchange points and yards where railroads currently perform reciprocal switching could be beneficial to grain shippers. The NGFA also discussed with Board Member Primus the extent to which existing reciprocal switching arrangements can be obscured from shippers seeking new reciprocal switching arrangements if a shipper is not already a customer of the railroad that would compete with the incumbent. In such cases the shipper may not have ready access to the competing carrier's tariffs. There is therefore a need for transparency as part of any rule regarding the establishment of reciprocal switching arrangements.

The NGFA and Board member Primus also talked about issues related to the distance between interchange points and some NGFA members in various regions of the United States.

The meeting concluded with Board Member Primus thanking NGFA for meeting with him and the NGFA team thanking Board Member Primus for his time.