

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 13, 2020

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

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
Board Member
Surface Transportation Board 300392
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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RE: Docket No. EPP 722, Railroad Revenue Adequacy

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

The freight rail industry is a critical part of our nation's transportation system and is an engine that drives our nation's competitiveness. Our nation depends on a healthy railroad network to move goods safely and efficiently. As the Surface Transportation Board (STB) continues to consider issues related to the long-term revenue adequacy of railroads, I urge you to continue to balance the needs of railroads and shippers through a balanced economic framework.

A safe, efficient, and reliable freight network is key to fostering West Virginia's economic development. We depend on railroads to carry our abundant natural resources and manufactured goods to markets around the world. Several of the issues currently before the STB, such as revenue reductions or rate caps, could have significant impacts on both railroads as well as the shippers they serve.

As you finalize this process, I urge you to consider the economic impacts – supported by sound data-driven analysis – on the freight rail network, and the consequences those proposals may have on railroads and on shippers. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator