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Hon. Martin J. Oberman, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman and Members of the Surface Transportation Board,

I represent the Lake States Lumber Association. We are a Midwest based forest products association. Over the past 20 years, many of our members have witnessed an unprecedented decline in rail service. In my own great state of Wisconsin most of the rail loading sites we used to have are no longer in service. Our industry is forced to put more and more raw material and finished products onto our highway system. We face higher transportation costs, poorer service and competitive disadvantage.

The solution to poor service in the rail industry is competition. If a railroad reduces service while increasing rates, lets help give the shippers some good options. Having Reciprocal Switching helps bring more competition to the rail industry. I have friends in the Canadian forest industry. They work very well with their railroads to efficiently move their products across rail lines owned by different companies. Let's help our US transportation infrastructure and make our rail industry a little more competitive. Think of all the product that used to be hauled by train, that is now being shipped by truck. Let's help our transportation system be more efficient, more environmentally conscious, and more sensible. Please support Reciprocal Switching rule.

Sincerely,

Larry Krueger
Lake States Lumber Association
337 Superior Ave.
Crystal Falls, MI 49920