

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

Docket No. EP 711 (Sub-No. 1)

RECIPROCAL SWITCHING

**SUMMARY OF EX PARTE MEETING BETWEEN U.S. WHEAT ASSOCIATES AND
VICE CHAIRMAN SCHULTZ**

4/21/2022

U.S. Wheat Associates Attendees:

- Justin Gilpin, Kansas Wheat Commission, Chief Executive Officer
- Michael Anderson, Market Analyst
- Steelee Fischbacher, Texas Wheat Producers Board & Association, Director of Policy
- James S. Peterson, North Dakota Wheat Commission, Policy and Marketing Director
- Daniel Elliott, Legal Counsel

Surface Transportation Board Attendees:

- Michelle Schultz, Vice Chairman
- Christopher Diamond, Attorney Advisor

Meeting Summary:

Meeting began with introductions and discussion by USWA of its mission and purpose.

The participants then discussed how many wheat shippers would be within a reasonable distance of an interchange. USWA stated that each state would be impacted in different ways by the interchange distance requirement with wheat shippers in some states not being able to use the proposed rule in most situations if it was limited to 30 miles.

The participants then discussed what would be the impact on wheat shippers who could not qualify for a switch. There was some discussion about whether these wheat shippers would pay more for rail service if the proposed rule was put in place.

Then, the discussion turned to whether wheat shippers were captive. USWA felt that most wheat shippers were captive because of their location mainly in rural areas.

Vice Chairman Schultz then asked about the possible impact of this proposed rule on rail service. The group discussed if this could make the present rail service issues worse and whether this made sense right now. USWA did point out that reciprocal switching could help service in some situations by allowing a wheat shipper to have access to another railroad that was more capable of providing adequate service.

Last, the Vice Chairman raised the importance of communication regarding rail service. The group discussed communication issues regarding rail service and how that could be improved.