

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

RECIPROCAL SWITCHING

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

5/4/2022

U.S. Wheat Associates Attendees:

- Dalton Henry, Vice President - Policy
- Michael Anderson, Market Analyst
- James Peterson, North Dakota Wheat Commission, Policy and Marketing Director
- Daniel Elliott, Legal Counsel

Surface Transportation Board Attendees:

- Martin Oberman, Chairman
- Ellen Erichsen, Chief of Staff
- Adam Kress, Attorney Advisor
- Stephanie Borges, Senior Executive Assistant

Meeting Summary:

USWA introduced itself. Dalton Henry said USWA supports the proposed rule. Chairman Oberman expressed his desire to find new and better ideas for reciprocal switching. There was a discussion about the wheat industry and how important rail service was to it. Chairman Oberman asked about fertilizer availability which was addressed by the USWA group.

USWA discussed how poor rail service could impact exports.

USWA noted it was grappling with issues like distance to a switch for its mainly rural locations. USWA said a longer distance to an interchange would be its preference. USWA demonstrated an interactive map to show where interchanges are in its member states. USWA is analyzing map to determine a workable distance for its shippers.

There was a discussion about limits to reciprocal switching rules where reciprocal switching is already taking place. USWA said it would look to see how that would impact its member states.

USWA mentioned it heard prior to the service hearing from several large central US wheat shippers about rate increases effective June 1: UP: Domestic up \$175/car; UP-- Export depending on destination up \$130-150/car; and BNSF -:up \$200/car on average.