

January 31, 2025

Via email (plong@rsiweb.org)

309172

Patty Long, President
Railway Supply Institute
2001 K Street NW
Third Floor North
Washington, DC 20006**ENTERED**
Office of Proceedings
February 4, 2025
Part of
Public Record

Re: EAC Review of Car Hire Rule 25

Dear Patty:

I am reaching out with respect to your January 27, 2025 letter to Antwan Dozier, in which you indicate that the Railway Supply Institute (RSI) wishes to participate in the Equipment Assets Committee's (EAC) review of Car Hire Rule 25, which outlines the arbitration procedure when agreement on car hire rates, including those on boxcars, cannot be reached. We are pleased that RSI has elected to join the EAC's process, and we are anticipating a good faith, collaborative effort from all sides.

I do feel obligated to point out for the record, however, that we do continue to disagree on whether the STB should grant RSI's petition. As AAR has previously stated in its filings before the Board, a proceeding before the Surface Transportation Board (STB) on Car Hire Rule 25 is simply not needed. I can assure you that the grant of RSI's petition is not "necessary to encourage the EAC to consider RSI's concerns seriously." On the contrary, both the AAR and the EAC obviously take RSI's concerns seriously (as reflected in the invitation to participate in this rule review), and the EAC is always open to hearing from interested parties regarding possible improvements to the rules it oversees. Indeed, when RSI took advantage of the EAC process on a different matter nearly six years ago, RSI was advised that the EAC "remains open to consider means of improving the Code of Car Hire."¹ That remains equally true today.

I also must note that while the EAC will consider relevant data as part of its review, the committee will need to determine the parameters of any data gathering or sharing, and any such activity will be limited to that which is necessary and helpful to the EAC's review of Rule 25.

¹ See RSI Petition at App'x C (May 13, 2019 Letter from Jeffrey J. Usher, AAR, to Randall Thomure, RSI).

We sincerely appreciate RSI's participation in this process and look forward to working together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. McDonald".

Amber L. McDonald
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*Counsel for the Association
of American Railroads*

cc:

STB Chair Patrick Fuchs
STB Vice Chair Michelle Schultz
STB Member Karen Hedlund
STB Member Robert Primus