



Surface Transportation Board
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The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
408 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative LaMalfa,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the Railway Supply Institute's ("RSI") Petition to Reopen filed in Joint Petition for Exemption of Arbitration Rule from Application of 49 U.S.C. § 10706 and Motion to Dismiss, Docket No. EP 334 (Sub-No. 8A). We appreciate hearing your views about the significance of Rule 25 of the Association of American Railroads' Code of Car Hire ("Arbitration Rule"), and the potential impacts of the Arbitration Rule on the supply of boxcars.

Since RSI filed its Petition to Reopen on March 25, 2024, several interested parties have filed comments in the docket. The Board is actively reviewing all filings in this docket, and it expects to determine its next action expeditiously. Because the Petition to Reopen is pending, we cannot comment further; however, we thank you for sharing your views about the importance of boxcar supply to the freight rail network.

A copy of your letter and this reply have been placed in the docket on the Board's website. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Ms. Janie Sheng, Director of the Board's Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance, at 202-245-0238.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Fuchs
Chairman

Michelle A. Schultz
Vice Chairman

Robert E. Primus
Member

Karen J. Hedlund
Member