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March 25, 2025

309421

Sent via U.S. Mail and Email: [REDACTED]

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Office of Proceedings

April 3, 2025

Part of

Public Record

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-3281

Dear Chairman Fuchs and Members of the Board:

I write to recommend that the Surface Transportation Board consider the Railway Supply Institute's petition to reopen Docket No. EP 334 (Sub-No. 8A). This issue is particularly significant as it directly impacts the livelihood of 288 employees in TX-17. Reopening this case is crucial for reviewing a market-driven pricing structure that promotes fairness, encourages private investment, and enhances competition, thus securing a sustainable boxcar supply for the American economy.

Boxcar retirements have exceeded new productions in the last two decades, leading to a 38% shrinkage in the boxcar fleet since 2008, with an anticipated further reduction of 22% by 2030. Despite this, rail transportation remains the safest and most efficient mode for transporting over 1.1 million carloads in 2023 alone, playing a vital role in U.S. supply chains.

I urge the STB to thoroughly examine the impact of the rate-setting enforced by Class I railroads through the Arbitration Rule on competition, the availability of boxcars, and the overall health of U.S. supply chains.

I appreciate the Board's consideration of this request. Your team may contact Albert Mercer in my office via email at albert.mercer@mail.house.gov or 202.322.1570 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Karen J. Hedlund, Member, Surface Transportation Board
The Honorable Robert E. Primus, Member, Surface Transportation Board
The Honorable Michelle A. Schultz, Member, Surface Transportation Board