



Surface Transportation Board
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The Honorable Mike Quigley
U.S. House of Representatives
2083 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Quigley,

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 potential impacts of Rule 25 of the Association of American Railroads' (AAR) Code of Car Hire, known as the Arbitration Rule, on the supply of boxcars in the United States and competition in the boxcar market, the local economy in northeastern Illinois, and the overall health of the supply chain.

Since RSI filed its petition on March 25, 2024, several interested parties have filed comments in the docket. Subsequently, as you know, the Board was informed that a review of Rule 25 is being conducted by AAR's Equipment Assets Committee (EAC) and held the proceeding in abeyance to allow for the conclusion of the EAC review. Because this proceeding is pending, we cannot comment further; however, we thank you for sharing your views about the importance of this matter 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