



Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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The Honorable Troy Nehls
1104 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Nehls,

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). I appreciate hearing your views regarding the Association of American Railroads' (AAR) use of the authority under the Board's car hire regulations and the status of the supply of railcars in the United States, including the impacts on private rail car owners, private boxcar investment and the availability of competitively sourced boxcars, and modal shifts in freight with effects on safety, infrastructure, and emissions.

Since RSI filed its Petition to Reopen on March 25, 2024, several interested parties have filed comments in the docket. Subsequently, the Board was informed that a review of Rule 25 was being conducted by AAR's Equipment Assets Committee (EAC) and held the proceeding in abeyance to allow for the conclusion of the EAC review. On November 24, 2025, and December 10, 2025, AAR and RSI, respectively, informed the Board that the EAC review had concluded, and that agreement had not been reached on all of RSI's requests. While this proceeding currently remains in abeyance, I expect the Board to move the proceeding forward in an efficient and expeditious manner.

Because this proceeding is pending, I cannot comment further; however, I 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