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The Surface Transportation Board
395 E St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Docket EP 788, Eliminating Regulatory Barriers to Competition: Review of Part 1144
Comments of The Dow Chemical Company ("Dow")

Dear Board Members:

Dow welcomes the Surface Transportation Board's proposed rule served on January 6, 2026, in the above-referenced proceeding ("the NPRM"). Dow strongly supports the full repeal of 49 CFR 1144, which inappropriately narrows the Board's statutory authority to provide access to competitive rail service through reciprocal switching, through routes, and through rates. The existing regulations stand as an unwarranted barrier to competition and should be eliminated. Dow has supported increased access to reciprocal switching, including through comments in Docket No. EP 711 (Sub-No. 1 and Sub-No. 2).

Safe, reliable, and competitive rail transportation is critical in supplying Dow's customers. Dow has 19 rail-served facilities in the U.S. located in California, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia. Its largest rail-served facilities in the U.S. are captive to a single railroad. Also, Dow operates a private fleet of over 22,000 railcars that make 90,000 outbound shipments annually across North America.

As a member of the American Chemistry Council, Dow fully supports their comments. For all the reasons stated in their comments, Dow strongly supports the Board's NPRM to fully repeal Part 1144 and instead allow the Board to consider requests for reciprocal switching, through routes, and through rates on a case-by-case basis under its statutory authority.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Katherine Howerton
Katherine Howerton
Global Rail Logistics Director