

Executive Director

Scott Wigger

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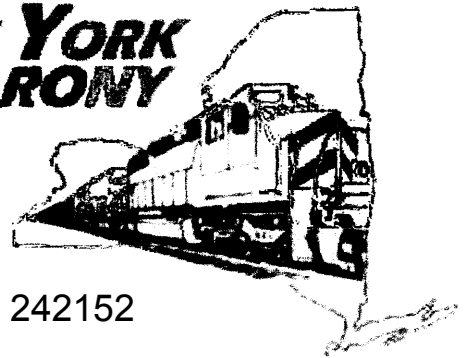
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Phelan & Wigger, LLC

RAILROADS OF NEW YORK RONY



November 22, 2016

242152

Re: Docket Ex Parte No. 711 (Sub-No. 1)

Mr. Daniel Elliott
Chairman
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Mrs. Deb Miller
Vice Chairman
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Mrs. Ann D. Begeman
Board Member
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Miller and Member Begeman:

I am writing on behalf of Railroads of New York, Inc. (RONY), a statewide organization that represents the freight rail industry in New York State, including four Class I Railroads (CSX, Canadian National, Canadian Pacific and Norfolk Southern) and 34 Short Line and Regional Railroads that directly employ over 3,700 individuals in NYS. RONY's membership is also supported by its Associate and Contributing Members which represent a wide variety of freight rail-related businesses, including engineers, surveyors, material suppliers, contractors, insurance providers and industrial development agencies.

I am writing to convey my concern about the Surface Transportation Board's proposed railroad access regulations, which would undermine the resilience of the American economy by diminishing the strength of the rail industry.

It is critically important that businesses have reliable and uninterrupted access to efficient freight transportation to ensure products are able to compete nationally and globally.

ENTERED

Office of Proceedings
November 30, 2016
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2016 NOV 28 AM 10:31
OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN

The proposed regulations, which would require railroads to provide their competitors with access to their rail lines, would compromise the efficiency of the national rail system and slow the overall movement of goods across the nation.

Businesses, especially small businesses, rely on swift, predictable shipping options to meet their customers' requirements. By recommending that railroads comply with these regulations, the STB is likely to jumpstart a chain reaction that constricts business activity. This is not just discriminatory toward the railroads, it is also unfair to the businesses, small and large, that form the backbone of the American economy. When those businesses suffer, so do the local communities that surround them.

I urge the board to carefully consider the potentially disruptive effects of these proposed regulations and the impact they would have on businesses across the nation. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Fenno', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nathan Fenno, President
Railroads of New York, Inc.