

November 30, 2016

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

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

Dear Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Miller and Member Begeman:

As the President and CEO of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, I am writing on behalf of the chamber and our 2,400 members, to express our concerns about the Surface Transportation Board's new efforts to aggressively regulate the railroad industry.

I've witnessed firsthand how freight rail transportation can transform a community into a thriving logistics hub. The business community in our region has seen tremendous benefits from the CSX Intermodal Terminal located in Worcester, which connects local businesses to the domestic and global economy and attracts businesses that bring much-needed jobs. Worcester is New England's second largest city and stands as the freight and passenger rail hub for the region. There are several different lines, including Pan-Am, Providence/Worcester and Amtrak to name a few, that have rails running through Worcester in order to connect to other areas of the New England region.

That's why I am concerned by the STB's plan to undercut railroads' ability to maintain current service levels, deliver goods in an efficient manner, and make critical private investments in track, equipment and maintenance.

AFFILIATE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Auburn • Blackstone Valley • Central Mass South • Wachusett Area • Webster Dudley Oxford

Our community cannot afford to lose out on these business opportunities and the long-term economic growth that rail brings. These regulations threaten the economic prosperity of communities like Worcester and our region, which rely on dependable freight rail connections.

I urge you to consider the unintended consequences these regulations may have on the communities in Central Massachusetts and recommend that the STB halt these pending regulations.

Sincerely,



Timothy P. Murray
President and CEO