

229093

JERRY F. COSTELLO

12TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

www.house.gov/costello

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE
OFFICE CHECKED BELOW

COMMITTEES & SUBCOMMITTEES
 TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
 AVIATION (CHAIRMAN)
 RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
 WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515-1312

March 30, 2011

Chairman Daniel R. Elliot, III
 Surface Transportation Board
 395 E Street, SW
 Washington, DC 20423

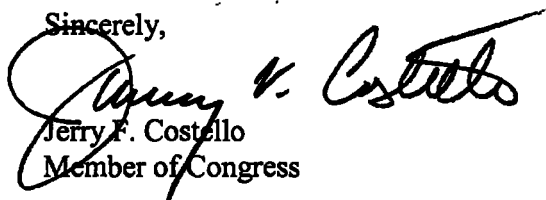
Dear Chairman Elliot:

In light of the Surface Transportation Board's hearing in June regarding competition in the rail industry, it is important that balanced economic regulations of freight railroads are maintained.

As a senior member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, I am familiar with the federal programs and policies related to the regulation and safety of the nation's railroads. In Illinois, there are 44 freight railroads who employ over 12,500 people and are responsible for safely transporting tons of coal, iron, steel, farm and other products to be bought and sold in the U.S. and overseas. I have seen first-hand in the 12th Congressional District I am privileged to represent the positive impact the rail industry has on the local economy.

It is vital, not only the 12th Congressional district, but also to the state of Illinois and the nation, that railroads continue to grow, provide good paying jobs, and make the investments necessary for our economy to compete in world markets. Having balanced economic regulations in place is crucial to the future of a vibrant transportation system.

Sincerely,



Jerry F. Costello
 Member of Congress