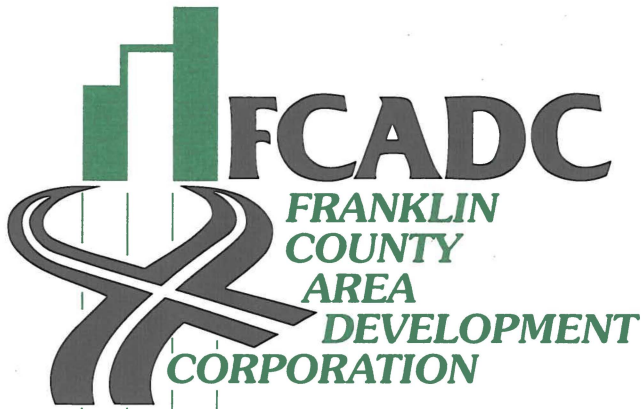




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November 2, 2016

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

RE: Docket Ex Parte No. 711

Dear Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Miller and Member Begeman:

Created in 1960, the Franklin County Area Development Corp. (FCADC) is a 501 (c)(6) non-profit corporation. We are a model private-public partnership with a proven record of success. Since 1986, the FCADC has successfully facilitated more than 735 projects throughout Franklin County. Those projects have resulted in more than \$1.9 Billion in capital expenditures and have created/retained more than 46,000 jobs. The FCADC respectfully submits significant concerns with the proposed Surface Transportation Board's rules that would negatively impact customers and families in our state.

The proposed rules regarding changes to the regular and efficient operations of freight railroads threatens the viability of companies throughout Central Pennsylvania who rely on dependable and safe rail service. It should also be noted that there is no evidence that the STB proposal will have a positive effect on the railroad industry and communities in our region.

The ability of the freight railroad industry to deliver affordable, efficient rail services is vital. The small businesses, service providers and others rely on freight rail's connections to domestic and international markets will. The vast regulatory burdens on customers and the economy produce unnecessary roadblocks. We should not add more hurdles for the rail

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industry and businesses here in Pennsylvania - especially when data is lacking to support additional regulations.

The STB's overreach will surely undermine the financial health and stability of Pennsylvania's rail network and will impact the nation's entire rail system. The FCADC strongly urges the Surface Transportation Board to substantially alter or abandon these pending regulations. It is our position that the broad economy in Central Pennsylvania will experience diminished and disappointing results from the STB's proposed changes.

Sincerely,



L. Michael Ross
President

C: FCADC Board of Directors
Congressman Bill Shuster, 9th District (Chair, House Transportation Infrastructure Committee)
US Senator Patrick Toomey, Pennsylvania
US Senator Bob Casey, Jr., Pennsylvania