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The Honorable Ann D. Begeman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

**RE: Intent to Participate at May 22, 2019 Oversight Hearing on
Demurrage and Accessorial Charges; Docket # EP 754**

Dear Chairman Begeman:

On behalf of the Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA), I am submitting a written notification of my intent to speak at the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) "Oversight Hearing on Demurrage and Accessorial Changes" scheduled for May 22, 2019. ARA is a 501(c)(6) non-profit trade association that represents the interests of agricultural retailers and distributors across the United States on legislative and regulatory issues. As the political voice for agricultural retailers and distributors, ARA advocates on critical issues, educates legislators and collaborates with regulatory officials on important issues affecting the industry. My preference would be to speak during the morning session if possible.

Thank you and the other STB board members for scheduling this hearing and shining some light to the demurrage and accessorial charges implemented by the Class I railroads, which is being used as a revenue raiser that ARA members believe are excessive and unfair. Let me know if you have any questions or need additional information prior to the May 8, 2019 written testimony submission date.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Gupton
Senior Vice President, Public Policy & Counsel