



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

RICHMOND

CHRISTOPHER K. PEACE

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NINETY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
GENERAL LAWS
HEALTH, WELFARE AND
INSTITUTIONS
APPROPRIATIONS

October 14, 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

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ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
January 24, 2017
Part of
Public Record

Dear Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Miller and Member Begeman:

I represent the 97th District in the Virginia House of Delegates, which includes Hanover, King William and New Kent counties in central Virginia. I also serve as Chairman of the House Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee.

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.

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.

In recent years the Commonwealth of Virginia has invested hundreds of millions dollars in rail infrastructure to increase capacity and improve fluidity of our passenger and freight networks to people and goods more efficiently through the state, across the country and around the world. Unfortunately,

these regulations would jeopardize these taxpayer investments and their benefits to Virginians and Virginia businesses.

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 both in Virginia and across the nation. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Christopher K. Peace".

Christopher K. Peace

cc: Anne Oman, House Appropriations