

REPLY TO:

☐ 135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501
(202) 224-3744
e-mail: grassley.senate.gov/contact.cfm

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210 WALNUT STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2140
(515) 288-1145

☐ 150 1ST AVENUE NE
SUITE 325
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401
(319) 363-6832

United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

June 5, 2012

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REPLY TO:

☐ 103 FEDERAL COURTHOUSE BUILDING
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(712) 233-1860

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Ms. Mary Turek
Congressional Liaison
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
June 15, 2012
Part of
Public Record

Dear Ms. Turek:

Enclosed please find a communication I received from Trackmasters, Inc. regarding rail regulations. I ask that these comments and concerns be given all due consideration.

I would appreciate any assistance you could provide pertaining to this matter. Please mark your return correspondence to the attention of Sherry Kuntz when responding to my office.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

CEG/sk

RANKING MEMBER,
JUDICIARY

Committee Assignments:

AGRICULTURE
BUDGET
FINANCE

CO-CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL CAUCUS



Building Trust One Track At A Time

Corporate Office: 1825 First Ave., Silvis, IL 61282-1091

QUAD CITIES DES MOINES OMAHA

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1501

April 30, 2012

Dear Senator Grassley:

I have no doubt that you hear plenty of bad news about the US economy. Yet, I wanted to share with you a real success story. Throughout Iowa and the entire Midwest, Trackmasters, Inc. helps maintain a smooth flow of raw materials and finished goods into and out of the factories, mills, refineries and elevators of America's heartland. From our regional office in Des Moines, our 30 employees provide qualified construction and maintenance for the critical sidings that carry the freight cars from our nation's arterial railways to and from the loading docks of mid-America. This work takes us throughout the state and the economic development impact we have is tremendous when you think of the hotel stays and restaurants our employees are dependent on during their work. We are a great example of the fact that every freight rail job supports another 4.5 jobs.

In America's heartland, our economy still runs on rails of steel. With the Midwest's industrial base strongly tied to the efficient, affordable transportation of grain and other agricultural products as well as the swift movement of raw and manufactured goods from supplier to manufacturer to market, the railroads are still a vital resource. Railroads are the link that connects us with other markets, other regions and other worlds. With transportation officials forecasting a near doubling of freight shipments in the next 20 years railroads are uniquely placed to handle that additional burden. The massive investment by our nation's railroads in 2012 (\$13 billion in capacity expansion and \$10 billion in maintenance) is helping drive the growth of Trackmasters; we hope to hire 3 new employees to meet demand for rail capacity expansion.

Specializing in Railroad Trackwork
Design / Construction / Rehabilitation / Maintenance

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So, Trackmasters is not the only success story of the last 30 years. In 1980, Congress moved to take the long hand of federal regulators out of daily rail operations. The new and reasonable regulatory structure that has emerged gave railroads flexibility to create and implement a business model that is profitable with great public benefit. Railroads have reinvested 480 billion into their infrastructure; and have accomplished this with average rail rates at half their 1980's levels (when adjusted for inflation). Clearly, the reasonable regulations are working and should be maintained. Please contact the Surface Transportation Board and ask them to maintain the current rail regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "K. J. Allen", written in a cursive style.