



SYFRETT FEED CO., INC.

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214991

Honorable Vernon Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Ex Parte 658 Staggers Act Review

Dear Secretary Williams:



I am writing to offer comments on the Staggers Rail Act for STB to consider in its review. We will not be able to participate in person, but rail is important to us and we want to offer our views. Syfrett Feed is a feed mill located in Okeechobee, FL that produces and distributes feed products to the dairy industry and also exports to the Caribbean. We use both truck and rail to bring inbound feed grain and ingredients to manufacture and distribute to customers.

Railroad is important to Syfrett Feed Company, Inc. Approximately 90% of our feed ingredients move by rail. Most is in railroad provided cars. We expect to use the rail more in the future. It is the best resource to handle the longer haul moves.

We believe the Staggers Act has been a success. Rail carriers are far more responsive today in price and service than under regulation. The ICC's decision to deregulate traffic has been a major factor in getting competitive rates.

It is very important that federal transportation policies ensure that railroads are given an opportunity to earn a fair return on their assets. Without that, the railroads will not be able to improve their ability to handle freight.

It is also important that the rail network enhance its ability to deal with peaks in volume demands, rerouting from storms, and localized surges in traffic. This will make the system more reliable and better able to recover from difficulties. Again, this requires federal policies that allow railroads to earn the money that is needed to invest.

Overall, the Staggers Act and the policies followed by the ICC and STB have been a tremendous success. We would appreciate your continued support of the Staggers Rail Act.

Sincerely,

Charles B. Syfrett

President, Syfrett Feed Company, Inc.



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To: Hon. Vernon Williams

From: Chuck Syfrett

Company: Secretary Trans. Board

Date: 10/18/05

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Pages: 2

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•Comments:

Following is a letter regarding the Ex Parte 658.

SYFRETT FEED CO., INC.