



February 23, 2017

The Honorable John Garamendi
2438 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Garamendi,

The California Short Line Railroad Association (CSLRA) represents over two-dozen short line railroads in the Golden State. From San Diego to Shasta, from San Francisco Bay to the Sierra Foothills, short line railroads haul a wide variety of products from imported goods in containers to agricultural products. Often locally owned and operated, short line railroads are an integral part of the local communities through which they operate.

A recent economic impact report from Towson University in Maryland shows that the investments of U.S. railroads created more than \$274 billion in economic activity while supporting approximately 1.5 million jobs and \$88 billion in total wages across the country. The freight rail industry spent nearly \$28 billion in 2014 to maintain and further modernize the nation's rail network.

A thriving rail system wasn't always the case. Three decades ago, railroads were collapsing under a heavy federal regulatory burden that prevented revenue adequacy. Congress recognized the need to maintain freight rail service and passed the Staggers Rail Act of 1980. The free market principles of the Staggers Act incubated the growth and subsequent record \$600 billion private rail infrastructure investment we have seen over the last three decades. Since Staggers was passed, Congress has at times reviewed the regulatory environment around rail operations and pricing to ensure railroads do not have unfair market leverage. In each instance, Congress has determined that the model established under Staggers protects shippers while allowing railroads sufficient revenue to maintain and grow their networks.

The CSLRA is greatly concerned that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) is now considering new regulations that would undermine Staggers and the will of Congress. These new regulations could cap rates, require railroads to open their lines to competitors, and give preferential treatment to certain shippers. A return to the failed policies of the past will create major inefficiencies in our goods movement system, lead to reduced investment, decreased service, and a less safe rail network.

Increased federal rail regulations will only serve to stifle investment and service in California. Please monitor the STB and ensure these proposed regulations are not enacted that would disrupt rail service and investment in our rail infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kennan H. Beard III".

Kennan H. Beard III, President

cc: United States Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator Kamala Harris



February 23, 2017

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
322 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative LaMalfa,

The California Short Line Railroad Association (CSLRA) represents over two-dozen short line railroads in the Golden State. From San Diego to Shasta, from San Francisco Bay to the Sierra Foothills, short line railroads haul a wide variety of products from imported goods in containers to agricultural products. Often locally owned and operated, short line railroads are an integral part of the local communities through which they operate.

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Kennan H. Beard III, President

cc: United States Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator Kamala Harris



February 23, 2017

The Honorable Jared Huffman
1406 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Huffman,

The California Short Line Railroad Association (CSLRA) represents over two-dozen short line railroads in the Golden State. From San Diego to Shasta, from San Francisco Bay to the Sierra Foothills, short line railroads haul a wide variety of products from imported goods in containers to agricultural products. Often locally owned and operated, short line railroads are an integral part of the local communities through which they operate.

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Kennan H. Beard III, President

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United States Senator Kamala Harris



February 23, 2017

The Honorable Duncan Hunter
2429 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hunter,

The California Short Line Railroad Association (CSLRA) represents over two-dozen short line railroads in the Golden State. From San Diego to Shasta, from San Francisco Bay to the Sierra Foothills, short line railroads haul a wide variety of products from imported goods in containers to agricultural products. Often locally owned and operated, short line railroads are an integral part of the local communities through which they operate.

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February 23, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Denham
1730 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Denham,

The California Short Line Railroad Association (CSLRA) represents over two-dozen short line railroads in the Golden State. From San Diego to Shasta, from San Francisco Bay to the Sierra Foothills, short line railroads haul a wide variety of products from imported goods in containers to agricultural products. Often locally owned and operated, short line railroads are an integral part of the local communities through which they operate.

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February 23, 2017

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
115 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DeSaulnier,

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United States Senator Kamala Harris



February 23, 2017

The Honorable Julia Brownley
1019 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Brownley,

The California Short Line Railroad Association (CSLRA) represents over two-dozen short line railroads in the Golden State. From San Diego to Shasta, from San Francisco Bay to the Sierra Foothills, short line railroads haul a wide variety of products from imported goods in containers to agricultural products. Often locally owned and operated, short line railroads are an integral part of the local communities through which they operate.

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February 23, 2017

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
1610 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Napolitano,

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February 23, 2017

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal
125 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lowenthal,

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