



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

June 23, 2020

Ann D. Begeman
Chair, Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairwoman Begeman:

On behalf of the County of San Bernardino, I am pleased to submit this letter in recognition of the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the Staggers Rail Act.

The Staggers Act established a visionary approach to regulation that sparked a freight rail renaissance and continues to provide measurable benefits to businesses, consumers, taxpayers and our economy. Any action inhibiting freight rail investment would threaten economic development and quality of life in our communities, precipitate job losses in the rail supply and contracting sectors, and undercut safety, efficiency and productivity across the rail network, affecting all railroads, small and large.

Since the implementation of a balanced system of economic regulation under the Staggers Rail Act, which protects rail customers while allowing railroads to manage their assets and pricing, U.S. freight railroads have invested hundreds of billions of dollars in the rail network. Rail traffic has doubled, rail productivity has more than doubled, rail rates are down more than 40 percent, and recent years have been the safest on record.

Freight railroads' massive, post-Staggers investments in infrastructure, equipment and technology transformed a failing rail system into a high-tech, highly efficient, interconnected network that links American communities, businesses and consumers to markets across the country and around the world. Railroads are four times as fuel efficient as other modes of transport and emit 75 percent fewer greenhouse gases. Additionally, railroads do not require the significant public spending that subsidizes other modes.

Railroads are in the midst of revolutionary technological innovation as they adapt to meet changing customer demands and maintain their status as the safest, most efficient way to move freight over land. We support to preserve the delicate regulatory balance created by the Staggers Act, allowing freight railroads to innovate, adapt and reinvest in the rail network.

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If you have any questions regarding the County's letter, please contact Josh Candelaria, Governmental and Legislative Director, at 909 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Hagman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Curt Hagman
Fourth District Supervisor
Chair, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors