



**Surface Transportation Board**  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

June 11, 2012

Office of the Chairman

Mr. Richard F. Timmons  
President and Treasurer  
American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association  
50 F Street NW, Suite 7020  
Washington, DC 20001-1536

Re: End-of-Year 2012 Railroad Service Outlook

Dear Richard:

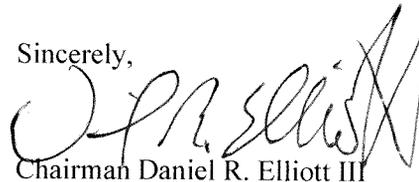
For several years, the Surface Transportation Board (Board) has asked each class-one railroad, along with the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA), to provide a forward-looking assessment of its ability to meet end-of-year business demands for US rail service. The member railroads of ASLRRA play an important role in providing direct “steel wheel” rail service to a significant number of shippers in the United States, and the Board is interested in their thoughts and comments.

We ask that any interested ASLRRA member railroads provide their service plans for the remainder of the year, including:

- Expectations for any seasonal peaks in carload and both domestic and international intermodal traffic.
- Resources to meet any upticks in volume, including a discussion of freight car, locomotive, and labor (train crew) availability.
- Specific plans to support demands for prompt movement of finished autos and light trucks.
- Specific plans to support demands for movement of crude oil and of oil and gas drilling activity.
- A summary of the investments made in freight service and capacity improvements for the past year, as well as areas of existing or anticipated rail traffic congestion and your plans for remediation.
- Developments in passenger rail service access (Amtrak, commuter, or high speed rail) and related on-time performance.

Please provide the Board with this information by July 1, 2012. Keep in mind that, as has been the case in the past, the Board expects to make your response public. I look forward to your response and to continuing to work together to ensure that the nation has efficient and reliable rail service.

Sincerely,



Chairman Daniel R. Elliott III

cc: The Honorable Francis P. Mulvey, Vice Chairman  
The Honorable Ann D. Begeman, Commissioner