



Office of the Chairman

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

August 19, 2014

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

Re: Railroad Service Outlook Fall 2014

Dear Richard:

The Surface Transportation Board is again asking Class I and American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) members to provide assessments of their ability to meet expected demands for rail service during the traditional "fall peak." The last year has been challenging for the Nation's freight rail network due to a combination of volume, capacity, equipment and weather related issues. Rail service issues continue to have an adverse impact on many rail customers.

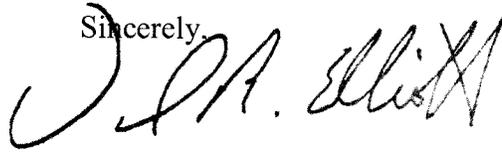
I ask that any interested ASLRRA members provide the Board with a brief description of their outlook and plans for the balance of 2014, including:

- Expectations for any seasonal peaks in traffic and the actions they will take to prepare for those peaks, with specific references to commodities such as grain, coal, crude oil, ethanol, propane, chemical and automobiles.
- Description of available resources to meet potential increases in traffic volume, including a discussion of freight car, locomotive, and labor (train crew) availability.
- Capital investments made to accommodate additional traffic demands.
- Plans for dealing with protracted congestion on the rail network, severe winter weather conditions, or any other factor that affects normal rail operations.

The Board has announced that it will hold a hearing on September 4 in Fargo, N.D. to address continuing rail service issues. Any responses from ALSRAA members

are requested following the hearing, by September 15, 2014. As has been the case in the past, the Board expects to make responses public. I look forward to continuing to work with ALSRAA members to ensure that the shipping public has efficient and reliable rail service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. R. Elliott III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "R".

Chairman Daniel R. Elliott III

cc: The Honorable Deb Miller, Vice Chairman
The Honorable Ann D. Begeman, Commissioner