



Office of the Chairman

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

August 9, 2010

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 2010 Railroad Service Outlook

Dear Richard:

For several years, the Surface Transportation Board (Board) has asked the class-one railroads, 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. We are aware that rail business volumes have been in decline for some time, but the Board is hopeful that an important corner has been turned and the second half of 2010 will continue the trend to a stronger rail business year overall.

The member railroads of ASLRRA have an important role in providing direct “steel wheel” rail service to a growing number of shippers in the United States, and the Board is interested in their thoughts and comments.

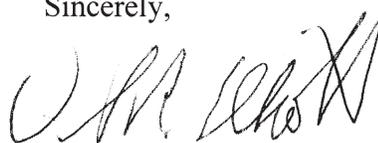
Continuing the current trend of increased rail shipments for the remainder of 2010, we ask that any interested ASLRRA member railroads provide their service plans for the remainder of the year, including:

- The actions which that railroad will take to prepare for the end-of-year shipping season, with specific references to the following commodity areas: agriculture (grain, grain products, and ethanol), coal and intermodal;
- A summary of the economic investments made in freight service improvements for the past year;
- Comments on positive train control initiatives and any impact on the ASLRRA member railroads;

- To the extent member railroads have been affected by extreme weather conditions, the effort which that railroad has undertaken to restore damaged infrastructure and restore service;
- The member railroad's plans for achieving those goals.

Please provide the Board with this information by September 15, 2010. Keep in mind that, as has been the case in the past, the Board expects to make the responses public. I look forward to your responses and to continuing to work together to ensure that the shipping public has efficient and reliable rail service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. P. Mulvey", written over a faint circular stamp.

Chairman

cc: The Honorable Francis P. Mulvey, Vice Chairman
The Honorable Charles D. Nottingham