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October 14, 2020

Ann D. Begeman, Chairman  
Martin J. Oberman, Vice Chairman  
Patrick J. Fuchs, Board Member  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street SW  
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman Begeman, Vice Chairman Oberman and Board Member Fuchs:

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the Staggers Rail Act. We write to urge the Board to maintain the balanced underlying economic framework that has been the bedrock of your decisions and ensure that no actions you take undermine the ability of freight railroads to reinvest in the rail network.

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.

As you know, 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.

This landmark, bipartisan legislation was necessary because decades of rigidly prescriptive federal overregulation had decimated the U.S. freight rail network. Bankruptcies were commonplace, rail rates were rising, safety was deteriorating, and rail infrastructure and equipment were in increasingly poor condition because railroads simply could not earn enough to pay for basic upkeep, let alone innovation and improvements.

Since the implementation of a balanced system of economic regulation under the Staggers 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.

This is important to us and to our country. Every ton of freight moved by rail promotes economic development, mitigates pollution, eases worsening highway congestion and saves taxpayers money. 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 implore the Surface Transportation Board to preserve the delicate regulatory balance created by the Staggers Act, allowing freight railroads to innovate, adapt and reinvest in the rail network. Our communities, our businesses and our employees depend on it.

Sincerely,

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Mrail Services  
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EVRAZ, NA  
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uGRIDD Corp.  
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Winchester, IN

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U.S. Congress  
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Vicksburg, MS

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Desoto, MS

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Sr. VP, Economic Development  
Greater Jackson Alliance  
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Mississippi Legislature  
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Mississippi Legislature  
Hickory Flat, MS

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Mississippi Legislature  
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Director  
Mississippi Transportation Research Center  
Starkville, MS

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Cape Girardeau, MO

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St. Louis, MO

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Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce  
Joplin, MO

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City of St. Joseph  
St. Joseph, MO

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Custom Truck One Source  
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Missouri General Assembly  
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Project 21  
St. Louis, MO

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Washington Area Chamber of Commerce  
Washington, MO

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Madison County  
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North Platte, NE

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City of Las Vegas  
Las Vegas, NV

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Econ. Dev. Authority of Western Nevada  
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Lyon County  
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Ashland, OH

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Butler County Development  
Hamilton, OH

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Franklin, OH

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Guernsey County Commissioners  
Cambridge, OH

Hancock County Board of Commissioners  
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Jackson County  
Jackson, OH

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Jackson County  
Jackson, OH

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Jackson County  
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South Point, OH

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Marion, OH

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The Nolan Company  
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State Senator, District 24  
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State Senator, District 2  
Tennessee General Assembly  
Maryville, TN

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Tennessee General Assembly  
Lancaster, TN

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State Representative, District 65  
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Franklin, TN

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City of Carthage  
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City of Cuero  
Cuero, TX

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City of Dayton  
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City of Del Rio  
Del Rio, TX

BJ Potts  
City Manager  
City of Dimmitt  
Dimmitt, TX

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City of Fort Worth  
Fort Worth, TX

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City of Hillsboro  
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City of Justin  
Justin, TX

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City of Leander  
Leander, TX

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City of Lufkin  
Lufkin, TX

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Mayor  
City of Marble Falls  
Marble Falls, TX

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Mayor  
City of Marfa  
Marfa, TX



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City of Memphis  
Memphis, TX

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Mayor  
City of Rockdale  
Rockdale, TX

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Rockport, TX

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City of Rosenberg  
Rosenberg, TX

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City of Santa Fe  
Santa Fe, TX

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Mayor  
Cleveland  
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Comanche Chamber of Commerce & Ag  
Comanche, TX

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Dumas/Moore County Chamber  
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Falls County  
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Granbury Chamber of Commerce  
Granbury, TX

John Crutchfield  
President  
Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce  
Killeen, TX

Mike Meek  
President  
Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce  
New Braunfels, TX

Hon. Robert Newsom  
County Judge  
Hopkins County  
Sulphur Springs, TX

Frank Given  
President  
Hulcher Services, Inc.  
Denton, TX

Brett Siedelmann  
VP Sales  
Hulcher Services, Inc.  
Denton, TX

Tom Giovanetti  
President  
Institute for Policy Innovation  
Irving, TX

Ron Albee  
President  
Jay-Reese Contractors  
Dripping Springs, TX

Hon. Jeff Branick  
County Judge  
Jefferson County  
Beaumont, TX

Lance LaCour  
President & CEO  
Katy Area Economic Development Corporation  
Katy, TX

Gene Lindgren  
President & CEO  
Laredo Economic Development Corporation  
Laredo, TX

Bridget Brandt  
President & CEO  
Leander Chamber of Commerce  
Leander, TX

Justin Balderas  
Director  
Littlefield Economic Development Corporation  
Littlefield, TX

Doug McCullough  
Director  
Lonestar Policy Institute  
Dallas, TX

Tara W. Watkins  
President  
Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce  
Lufkin, TX

Hon. Scott M. Felton  
County Judge  
McLennan County  
Waco, TX

Tiffany Melvin  
President  
NASCO Network  
Dallas, TX

Hon. Bert Miller  
Mayor  
Navasota  
Navasota, TX

Ken Malcolmson  
CEO  
North Dallas Chamber of Commerce  
Dallas, TX

Chris Wallace  
President & CEO  
North Texas Commission  
Irving, TX

Hon. Don R. Allred  
County Judge  
Oldham County  
Vega, TX

Tonya Keese  
Executive Director  
Plainview Chamber  
Plainview, TX

Mike Fox  
Executive Director  
Plainview/Hale County Econ. Dev. Corporation  
Plainview, TX

Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District  
Port Isabel, TX

David C. Fisher  
Port Director & CEO  
Port of Beaumont  
Beaumont, TX

Port of Freeport  
Freeport, TX

Jay Fountain  
VP Rail Group  
Purify Fuel  
Houston, TX

Robert Albritton  
Chairman & CEO  
RCL Services Group, LLC  
Benbrook, TX

Hon. Charles Ellison  
County Judge  
Robertson County  
Franklin, TX

Hon. Joel Hale  
County Judge  
Rusk County  
Henderson, TX

Walt Koenig  
President & CEO  
San Angelo Chamber of Commerce  
San Angelo, TX

Hon. Allison Harbison  
County Judge  
Shelby County  
Center, TX

Tom Sommerville  
President  
Sommerville Companies  
Dallas, TX

Anabelle Cormier  
Business Development Partner  
Stahl Recruiting  
Pearland, TX

Hon. Gary Fickes  
Commissioner, Precinct 3  
Tarrant County  
Southlake, TX

Rod Henry  
President  
Temple Chamber of Commerce  
Temple, TX

Hon. Trent Ashby  
State Representative, District 57  
Texas Legislature  
Lufkin, TX

Hon. Joe Deshotel  
State Representative, District 22  
Texas Legislature  
Port Arthur, TX

Hon. Dan Flynn  
State Representative, District 2  
Texas Legislature  
Van, TX

Hon. Ray Lopez  
State Representative, District 125  
Texas Legislature  
San Antonio, TX

Hon. Eddie Lucio Jr.  
State Senator, District 27  
Texas Legislature  
Brownsville, TX

Hon. Ina Minjarez  
State Representative, District 124  
Texas Legislature  
San Antonio, TX

Hon. Jane Nelson  
State Senator, District 12  
Texas Legislature  
Flower Mound, TX

Hon. Kel Seliger  
State Senator, District 31  
Texas Legislature  
Amarillo, TX

Hon. James White  
State Representative, District 19  
Texas Legislature  
Hillister, TX

Peter J. LeCody  
President  
Texas Rail Advocates  
Dallas, TX

Dennis Kearns  
General Counsel  
Texas Railroad Association  
Austin, TX

The Borderplex Alliance  
El Paso, TX

Hon. Steve C. Floyd  
County Judge  
Tom Green County  
San Angelo, TX

## Utah

Kellen Desmond  
President  
A&K Railroad Materials, Inc.  
Salt Lake, UT

Hon. Lorene Kamalu  
Commissioner  
Davis County  
Farmington, UT

Hon. Ernest Istook  
Former Representative (OK), U.S. Congress  
President & Founder, Americans for Less Reg.  
Lehi, UT

## Virginia

Saulius "Saul" Anuzis  
President  
60 Plus Association  
Alexandria, VA

Henry Bell  
President  
Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce  
Tyler, TX

Scott Martinez  
President/CEO  
Tyler Economic Development Council  
Tyler, TX

Rebecca L. Brewster  
President  
Van Horn Economic Development Corporation  
Van Horn, TX

Hon. Woodrow W. Gossom Jr.  
County Judge  
Wichita County Commissioners Court  
Wichita Falls, TX

Hon. Bill Lee  
Commissioner  
Utah County  
Provo, UT

Hon. Jacob Anderegg  
State Senator, District 13  
Utah State Legislature  
Lehi, UT

Nic Dunn  
Dir. of Public Policy and Business Development  
Utah Valley Chamber  
Provo, UT

James L. Martin  
Founder/Chairman  
60 Plus Association  
Alexandria, VA

Lisa Nelson  
CEO  
ALEC Action  
Arlington, VA

Christopher J. Connor  
President and CEO  
American Association of Port Authorities  
Alexandria, VA

Tom DeWeese  
President  
American Policy Center  
Warrenton, VA

Rick Manning  
President  
Americans for Limited Government  
Fairfax, VA

Brent Gardner  
Government Relations Director  
Americans for Prosperity  
Richmond, VA

Hon. Billy Martin  
Supervisor  
Botetourt County  
Fincastle, VA

R. Mark Bryant  
CEO  
Buckingham Branch Railroad  
Dillwyn, VA

Andrew Quinlan  
President  
Center for Freedom and Prosperity  
Alexandria, VA

Jeffrey Mazzella  
Sr.VP Legal Affairs  
Center for Individual Freedom  
Alexandria, VA

Jennifer B. Rose, MPA  
Executive Director  
Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce  
Fairfax, VA

Brian Isringhausen  
CEO  
Cranemasters  
North Chesterfield, VA

Hon. Dalia Patrick  
Supervisor  
Fairfax County  
Fairfax, VA

George Landrith  
President  
Frontiers of Freedom  
Fairfax, VA

Terry Banez  
Chief Executive Officer  
Greater Williamsburg Business Council  
Williamsburg, VA

Ira Agricola  
Senior VP Government Affairs  
Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce  
Norfolk, VA

Carrie Lukas  
President  
Independent Women's Forum  
Alexandria, VA

Andrew Langer  
President  
Institute for Liberty  
Washington, VA

Charles Sauer  
President  
Market Institute  
Alexandria, VA

Patrick McLaughlin  
Director of Policy Analytics & Sr. Research Fellow  
Mercatus Center at George Mason University\*  
Arlington, VA

Phil C. North  
Vice-Chair  
Roanoke County Board of Supervisors  
Roanoke, VA

Janet Scheid  
Chair  
Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Assoc.  
Roanoke, VA

Karen Kerrigan  
President & CEO  
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council  
Vienna, VA

Aaron Stover  
Dir. of Fed. Government/Corporate Relations  
The Heartland Institute  
Alexandria, VA

Chris Braunlich  
President  
Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy  
Alexandria, VA

Hon. Sean Polster  
Councilman  
Town of Warrenton  
Warrenton, VA

Keith Martin  
Executive Vice President  
Virginia Chamber of Commerce  
Richmond, VA

## Washington

All Aboard Washington  
Seattle, WA

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State Senator, District 25  
Virginia General Assembly  
Millboro, VA

Hon. John S. Edwards  
State Senator, District 21  
Virginia General Assembly  
Roanoke, VA

Hon. Jill Vogel  
State Senator, District 27  
Virginia General Assembly  
Upperville, VA

Hon. Michael Weibert  
State Delegate, District 18  
Virginia General Assembly  
Richmond, VA

Lynn Taylor  
President & Co-Founder  
Virginia Institute for Public Policy  
Abingdon, VA

Bob McKenna  
President & CEO  
Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce  
Hampton, VA

Andrew M. Sinclair  
Director, Federal Government Affairs  
Virginia Port Authority  
Norfolk, VA

Daril Vilhena  
CEO  
Cedar AI  
Seattle, WA

Hon. Saul Martinez  
Mayor  
City of Pasco  
Pasco, WA

Hon. Glenn A. Johnson  
Mayor  
City of Pullman  
Pullman, WA

Hon. Jenny Durkan  
Mayor  
City of Seattle  
Seattle, WA

Hon. Michael Cathcart  
Councilmember, District 1  
City of Spokane  
Spokane, WA

Hon. Nadine Woodward  
Mayor  
City of Spokane  
Spokane, WA

Hon. John Eagleson  
Mayor  
City of Sprague  
Sprague, WA

### **West Virginia**

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Executive Director  
Cardinal Institute  
Charleston, WV

City of Beckley  
Beckley, WV

Hon. Steve Williams  
Mayor  
City of Huntington  
Huntington, WV

Hon. Victoria Woodards  
Mayor  
City of Tacoma  
Tacoma, WA

Verlynn Best  
CEO-President  
Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce  
Yakima, WA

Hon. Pam Roach  
Councilwoman, District 2  
Pierce County  
Sumner, WA  
Sprague Chamber of Commerce  
Sprague, WA

Mariya Frost  
Director of the Coles Center for Transportation  
Washington Policy Center  
Olympia, WA

Hon. Curtis King  
State Senator, District 14  
Washington State Legislature  
Yakima, WA

Becky Sullivan  
President  
Fayette County Chamber of Commerce  
Oak Hill, WV

Fayette County Commission  
Fayetteville, WV

Huntington Area Development Council  
Huntington, WV

Chase Gunnoe  
Sales Manager  
Kanawha River Railroad  
Belle, WV

Rick Handley  
President  
Mason County Commission  
Point Pleasant, WV

Hon. Lloyd Adkins  
Commissioner  
Nicholas County  
Summersville, WV

Garrett Cole  
President  
Nicholas County Commission  
Summersville, WV

Hon. Lyle Neal  
Commissioner  
Nicholas County  
Summersville, WV

Hon. Timothy McCormick  
Commissioner  
Ohio County  
Wheeling, WV

Hon. Everett M. Ehrlich  
Former Under Secretary of Commerce  
President, ESC Company  
Charles Town, WV

Jim Shaffer  
President  
Public Policy Foundation of West Virginia  
Wheeling, WV

Putnam County Commission  
Winfield, WV

Raleigh County Commission  
Beckley, WV

Town of Fayetteville  
Fayetteville, WV

Hon. Kenneth Adkins  
Commissioner  
Wayne County  
Wayne, WV

Hon. Jeff Maddox  
Commissioner  
Wayne County  
Wayne, WV

Hon. Robert Pasley  
Commissioner  
Wayne County  
Wayne, WV

Hon. Michael Angelucci  
State Delegate, District 50  
West Virginia Legislature  
Farmington, WV

Hon. Robert Beach  
State Senator, District 13  
West Virginia Legislature  
Morgantown, WV

Hon. Donna Boley  
State Senator, District 3  
West Virginia Legislature  
St. Marys, WV

Hon. Scott Cadle  
State Delegate, District 13  
West Virginia Legislature  
Letart, WV

Hon. Gary Howell  
State Delegate, District 56  
West Virginia Legislature  
Keyser, WV

Hon. Larry Kump  
State Delegate, District 59  
West Virginia Legislature  
Falling Waters, WV

Hon. Linda Longstreth  
State Delegate, District 50  
West Virginia Legislature  
Fairmont, WV



Hon. Margaret Stagers  
State Delegate, District 32  
West Virginia Legislature  
Fayetteville, WV

Hon. Chandler Swope  
State Senator, District 6  
West Virginia Legislature  
Bluefield, WV

### **Wisconsin**

City of Chilton  
Chilton, WI

Thomas E. Winker  
Chairman  
East Wisconsin Rail Consortium  
Belgium, WI

Hon. Lester Jantzen  
Supervisor  
Grant County  
Potosi, WI

David J. Lambert  
Highway Commissioner  
Grant County  
Lancaster, WI

Hon. Dwight Nelson  
Supervisor  
Grant County  
Platteville, WI

Hon. John Patcle  
Supervisor  
Grant County  
Potosi, WI

Hon. Don Splinter  
Supervisor  
Grant County  
Hazel Green, WI

Hon. Cody Thompson  
State Delegate, District 43  
West Virginia Legislature  
Elkins, WV

Hon. Mark Stead  
Supervisor  
Grant County  
Platteville, WI

Hon. Travis Schultz  
Commissioner  
Juneau County  
Mauston, WI

Ronald Chamberlain  
Highway Commissioner  
La Crosse County Highway Department  
West Salem, WI

Hon. Kevin Viney  
Chair and Supervisor  
Town of Burke  
Burke, WI

Vernon County Highway Department  
Viroqua, WI

Francis Heafy, PLS  
President  
Via Rail Engineering  
Maribel, WI

Hon. Mike Farrell  
Village President  
Village of Bristol  
Bristol, WI

Wisconsin County Highway Association  
Boyceville, WI

Hon. Dave Considine  
State Representative, District 81  
Wisconsin Legislature  
Baraboo, WI

Hon. Jeremy Thiesfeldt  
State Representative, District 52  
Wisconsin Legislature  
Fond du Lac, WI

Hon. Dave Murphy  
State Representative, District 56  
Wisconsin Legislature  
Greenville, WI

Hon. Ron Tusler  
State Representative, District 3  
Wisconsin Legislature  
Harrison, WI

Hon. Shae Sortwell  
State Representative, District 21  
Wisconsin Legislature  
Two Rivers, WI

Hon. Don Vruwink  
State Representative, District 43  
Wisconsin Legislature  
Milton, WI

Hon. John Spiros  
Vice-Chair, Assembly Comm. on Trans. (Dist. 86)  
Wisconsin Legislature  
Marshfield, WI

Hon. Van Wanggaard  
State Senator, District 21  
Wisconsin Legislature  
Racine, WI

Hon. Gary Tauchen  
State Representative, District 6  
Wisconsin Legislature  
Bonduel, WI

CC: U.S. Senate Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee  
U.S. House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure