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Rep. Troy Carter
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Rep. Carter,

The Ascension Parish Chamber of Commerce is concerned about a proposed regulation by California's Air Resources Board (CARB) that would impact transportation and business. The regulation aims to ban locomotives older than 23 years by 2030 and require zero-emissions standards.

There are two main issues: locomotives usually last 40 years, so nearly half the fleet would be banned, and zero-emissions technology for railroads isn't yet viable. Hydrogen and battery-electric locomotives are still prototypes, lack power for mainline use, and can't be produced quickly enough to meet the 2030 deadline.

The regulation would impose significant costs on railroads, requiring millions in deposits for future zero-emission locomotive purchases and infrastructure. This could result in some short line railroads shutting down and billions in increased costs passed on to consumers, hurting transportation and business.

For our region, this rule would disrupt the supply chain to West Coast ports, causing delays and added costs. It would also impact local rail services and industrial operations, leading to more congestion and pollution as goods are shipped by truck.

If the EPA approves this regulation, other states might follow, creating a patchwork of rules. A California agency shouldn't dictate transportation policy for Louisiana.

I urge you to monitor this policy and its impacts, and to ask EPA Administrator Michael Regan to reject CARB's waiver request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DA Alexander', written in a cursive style.

David A. Alexander
President/CEO Ascension Chamber of Commerce