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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEBSITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

JOHN KEAST, STAFF DIRECTOR
DAVID STRICKLAND, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

May 23, 2019

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street Southwest
Washington, DC 20423

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
Vice Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street Southwest
Washington, DC 20423

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street Southwest
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman Begeman, Vice Chairman Fuchs, and Commissioner Oberman:

As you know, the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation wrote in March 2018 to commend Chairman Begeman for the creation of the Rate Reform Task Force, which was tasked with identifying ways to reform and streamline the rate review process for large cases and determining how to best provide a rate review process for smaller cases. We are pleased that the Surface Transportation Board publicly and expeditiously released the Rate Reform Task Force's report on April 29, 2019.

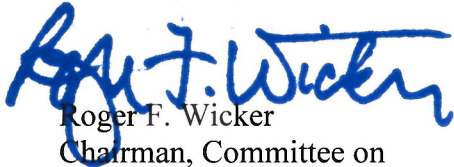
The release of this report is an important step toward achieving the intent of the Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization Act of 2015 (P.L. 14-110), which sought to make the Board a more efficient and effective agency by, among other changes, improving the way rate cases are handled. We appreciate the Board soliciting public input on the Rate Reform Task Force's findings and look forward to seeing the Board's next steps on this important issue.

We urge the Board to keep the Committee fully apprised of further developments on the Rate Reform Task Force recommendations. Thank you for your continued focus on this issue and

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consideration of this request. We look forward to our continued partnership in promoting a competitive, efficient, and reliable national rail system.

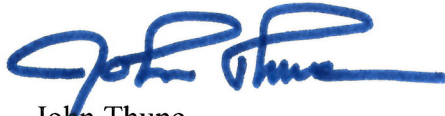
Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker
Chairman, Committee on
Commerce, Science, and Transportation



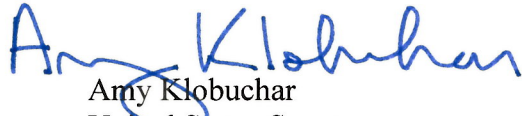
Deb Fischer
Chairman, Subcommittee
on Transportation and Safety



John Thune
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Transportation and Safety



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator