

Support for Reliable Rail Service Act

Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Roger Marshall (R-KS)

“If we want to fix our supply chain and make more things in America rather than in places like China – we need to make sure freight rail can deliver,” **said Chris Jahn, President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Chemistry Council.** “Senators Baldwin and Marshall have put together a sensible solution aimed at addressing ongoing freight rail service failures that all members of Congress should be interested in solving. We urge Democrats and Republicans support to support this legislation, which will help ensure railroads live up to their obligation to provide reliable service.”

“Clarification of the common carrier obligation has been needed for decades and this bipartisan bill provides Surface Transportation Board (STB) with clear oversight rules to help address our nation’s freight railroad supply chain challenges and improve rail service for agricultural shippers,” **said Mike Seyfert, President and CEO of the National Grain and Feed Association.** “NGFA members appreciate Sen. Baldwin and Sen. Marshall’s leadership in responding to rail service issues and for cosponsoring this legislation, which will help regulators respond to service disruptions that cause hardship for livestock producers, grain exporters, and grain processing facilities.”

“We applaud Senators Baldwin and Marshall for introducing the *Reliable Rail Service Act* to improve our nation’s freight rail network,” **said President Greg Regan, President of the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO.** “Unfortunately, America's freight rail companies too often fail to provide the equal, timely, and affordable service required of them by federal law. Let’s hold railroads accountable and better serve the small businesses, farmers, and other customers who rely on freight rail to transport their goods.”

“Forests in the Great Lakes and in particular Wisconsin, are healthy and productive because of sustainable silvicultural practices. At one time rail played a critical supporting role with cost effective and efficient transportation of raw and finished products. When implemented as intended the *Reliable Rail Service Act* will help restore the critical service needed to support this vital industry once more,” **said Troy Brown, President of the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association.**

“The Wisconsin Farm Bureau appreciates the work of Sen. Baldwin to address the definition of common carrier service obligation and increase the authority of the Surface Transportation Board to address agricultural rail needs,” **said Kevin Krentz, President of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.** “Wisconsin farmers are dependent on the movement of agricultural goods by rail and we hope this increased authority will lead to greater efficiency within the rail industry.”

“American dairy producers rely upon on fair and consistent rail service on both ends of their business – from sourcing feed and inputs to transporting dairy products to end customers, both domestic and foreign,” **said Jim Mulhern, president and CEO of the National Milk Producers Federation.** “The logistics challenges that have plagued the dairy industry over the past several years have been exacerbated by outdated rules governing rail freight movements. NMPF thanks Senators Baldwin and Marshall for introducing the bipartisan *Reliable Rail Service Act* today that would provide statutory clarity and enhanced oversight to the Surface Transportation Board to correct the rail transportation challenges faced by the U.S. dairy industry. We look forward to working with Congress to move this important legislation into law.”

“For years, dairy processors have struggled to use America’s rail system because of lack of reliability and reduced service schedules. The Reliable Rail Service Act is commonsense legislation that will provide greater clarity to the railroad’s common carrier obligations and ensure that they provide more dependable service at sensible rates,” **said Dr. Michael Dykes, President and CEO of the International Dairy Foods Association.** “IDFA applauds Sen. Baldwin and Sen. Marshall for introducing this legislation to improve transparency in the rail industry and restore the balance between carriers and shippers so the U.S. dairy industry can move products more reliably by rail.”

The *Reliable Rail Service Act* is supported by Agricultural Retailers Association, American Chemistry Council, American Farm Bureau Federation, American Forest & Paper Association, American Pulse Association, American Soybean Association, Consumer Brands Association, Corn Refiners Association, Essential Minerals Association, Freight Rail Customer Alliance, Glass Packaging Institute, Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association, Growth Energy, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. (ISRI), International Dairy Foods Association, International Warehouse Logistics Association, National Association of Chemical Distributors, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Corn Growers Association, National Farmers Union, National Grain and Feed Association, National Industrial Transportation League, National Milk Producers Federation, National Mining Association, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association, North American Millers’ Association, Portland Cement Association, Private Rail Car Food and Beverage Association, The Fertilizer Institute, The National Grange, USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council, U.S. Pea and Lentil Trade Association, USA Rice, Western Coal Traffic League, American Train Dispatchers Association (ATDA), Brotherhood Of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division (BMWED)-IBT, Brotherhood of Railway Carmen (BRC), Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (BRS), International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers (IBB), International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), International Brotherhood of Teamsters, National Conference of Firemen and Oilers, SEIU (NCFO), Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers-Mechanical Division (SMART-MD), Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers-Transportation Division (SMART-TD), Transportation Communications Union (TCU), Transport Workers Union of America (TWU), Transportation Trades Department (TTD).