



National Grain and Feed Association

TRANSFORMING AMERICA'S HARVEST[®]

RAILROAD SERVICE

Incentivize Better Service with Clearer Rules

www.ngfa.org

OVERVIEW

Unchallengeable rail service stresses the supply chain and leads to more congestion on highways. The impact is felt across NGFA membership and at times lowers production and increases the cost of transportation of ethanol, biodiesel, soybean oil, soybean meal, flour, animal feed, meat and other products derived from grain and feed.

NGFA urges Congress and the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to take appropriate action to provide clearer rules to incentivize better rail service.

Congressional Priorities for Ag Shippers

- Congress should pass another **STB reauthorization**, which expired in 2020, with an eye toward fostering competition in the freight rail system.
- The NGFA supports Sen. Tammy Baldwin's, D-Wisc., **Reliable Rail Service Act** that would better define rail carriers' common carrier obligation.
- Any rail safety legislation should balance enhanced safety measures and efficient rail network service.

STB Priorities for Ag Shippers

NGFA urges STB to:

- Finalize Docket No. EP 711 to establish reciprocal switching rules to enable the creation of rail-to-rail competition at qualifying interchanges.
- Finalize Docket No. EP 768 to incentivize rail carriers to more efficiently use customer-owned railcars. Much of the cost of railcar ownership has been transferred onto rail customers, yet they have little control over the railcars.

NGFA supports:

- STB's efforts to require additional data reporting, particularly for first-mile/last-mile rail service.
- Expanding STB's enforcement ability for rail carriers that do not comply with STB orders.
- Removing constraints to STB's investigative authority that currently is limited to issues of national or regional significance and prospective application of remedies.



NGFA MEMBERS

- Handle U.S. grains and oilseeds in domestic and export markets.
- Encompass all sectors of the industry and represent small and large companies, privately owned businesses and cooperatives.
- Include country elevators, feed mills, export elevators, cash grain and feed merchandisers, commodity futures brokers and commission merchants, end users of grain and grain products, and allied industries.

NGFA MISSION

Advocate a global open market environment to efficiently produce and provide a safe, abundant, affordable, sustainable and wholesome supply of grain, oilseeds, feed and related products responsive to market demand.

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