



## American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

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July 31, 2023

The Hon. Martin J. Oberman  
Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street SW  
Washington, DC 20423  
(via email: [martin.oberman@stb.gov](mailto:martin.oberman@stb.gov))

Dear Chairman Oberman:

We understand that the that the Surface Transportation Board's Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council recently voted to recommend that the STB examine issues related to the box car fleet, the current and future availability of boxcars, and incentives to invest in new boxcars.

On behalf of the nation's short line railroads, we encourage such a review and consideration of these important issues. Many short lines are highly dependent on boxcars to serve their thousands of customers across the country.

A review of this issue should include composition and availability of the current boxcar fleet, consideration of the quantity of boxcars that Class II and III railroads have historically supplied for their customers, ways to promote replacement of the boxcar fleet, and options to improve the efficiency of the fleet going forward for all stakeholders: customers, short lines, Class I railroads, railcar lessors, car manufacturers, organized labor, and others.

It is important for this examination to consider multiple viewpoints on the boxcar fleet and options that will incentivize sufficient investment to replace and expand the fleet in such a way that the industry can provide excellent service to the shippers that depend on us.

The STB has an opportunity to guide the various parties through consideration of these options and towards adoption of a path forward that addresses the reasonable needs, ongoing concerns (including default rates), and potential opportunities for all stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this important issue and we look forward to the next steps.

If the ASLRRRA can provide additional information, please reach out to me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Baker', with a horizontal line underneath.

Chuck Baker  
Present, ASLRRRA  
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