



RAIL TRANSPORTATION

Supporting an Efficient Railway System

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OVERVIEW

NGFA urges Congress and the Biden administration to promote an efficient and competitive rail transportation.

Common Carrier Obligation

- The Reliable Rail Service Act (S.2071), introduced by Sens. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisc., and Roger Marshall, R-Kan., would better define Class I rail carriers' common carrier obligation.
- This bill will provide regulators with clear oversight rules to help address freight railroad supply chain challenges and enhance rail service for agricultural shippers.

California's Proposed Emission Rules

- The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is requesting EPA to authorize zero emissions standards for locomotives in California, which would lead to increases in transportation costs and would eventually result in food price inflation.
- CARB's proposal requires railroads and rail customers to meet untenable regulatory requirements without any solutions available on the market.
- By 2035, only zero-emissions locomotives will be allowed to operate in California. Zero emissions locomotives are not yet commercially viable.

U.S. - Mexico Rail Crossings

- NGFA supports the Keeping International Land Ports of Entry Open Act to prevent shutdowns of rail crossings between the U.S. and Mexico. The bill requires that Department of Homeland Security staff are not removed from rail crossings into Mexico unless other measures are in place to keep the flow of goods intact.
- The U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) three-day closure of a rail crossing in September 2023 and five-day closure of two rail crossings in December 2023 immediately impacted the flow of grain, oilseeds and related products for both humans and livestock. Since those incidents, NGFA has insisted that governments of both nations ensure a plan is in place to avoid shutting down rail commerce across the border.

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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