



ARC

*Alliance for
Rail Competition*

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Federal News Update September 24, 2008

Wayne Hurst Joins ARC Executive Committee

Wayne Hurst, a southern Idaho farmer and an active participant in local and national politics, joined the ARC Executive Committee earlier this month. Hurst has served as the President of the Idaho Grain Producers Association and currently holds the office of the Secretary Treasurer of the National Association of Wheat Growers.

Hurst has been actively involved in captive shipper issues for many years prior to this appointment. In 2007, he testified on behalf of ARC before the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee on the issue of rail competition and service.

Hurst was nominated to the Executive Committee by Evan Hayes, who is stepping down after a long and valuable time with ARC. On behalf of the leadership of ARC, we want to thank Evan for the outstanding work, counsel, and support he has given to the organization during his tenure.

ARC Leads over Forty Organizations in Call to Continue Progress on Shipper Legislation

Earlier this week, ARC led a number of national, state, and business entities in a call to Congressional leadership to continue to advance the Rail Competition and Service Improvement Act. Forty-three organizations signed a letter to House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman James Oberstar calling for his continued commitment through the remainder of the current Congressional session and redoubled efforts to pass the legislation next year.

Chairman Oberstar has been a strong supporter and the original sponsor of the legislation. Due to political and scheduling issues, the bill was not brought up for a vote during the 110th Congress. Currently, as the Senate and the House of Representatives are gearing up for the election season, only "must-pass" legislation will be addressed during the remaining few days of the Congressional session. H.R. 2125 / S. 953, as well as many other bills, will "die" at the end of this session and will need to be introduced anew when Congress convenes for the 111th session in January.

The letter calls for redoubled efforts to pass the legislation in the next Congress. A copy of the letter is attached with this news update.

We encourage all ARC members to continue speaking with their elected officials about the importance of this legislation. Additionally, ARC will put a strong emphasis on including in the bill the Final Offer Arbitration (FOA) provision for all captive shipper groups. The current version of the bill provides for FOA for agriculture shippers. We urge you to make a strong point about the importance of FOA when communicating with your elected officials.

H.R. 2125 The Rail Competition and Service Improvement Act (Co-Sponsors: 55)

Rep. Oberstar, James (D-MN)
Rep. Alexander, Rodney (R-LA)
Rep. Andrews, Robert (D-NJ)
Rep. Baldwin, Tammy (D-WI)
Rep. Berry, Marion (D-AR)
Rep. Bonner, Jo (R-AL)
Rep. Boren, Dan (D-OK)
Rep. Boustany, Charles (R-LA)
Rep. Braley, Bruce (D-IA)
Rep. Cubin, Barbara (D-WY)
Rep. Delahunt, William (D-MA)
Rep. Ellison, Keith (D-MN)
Rep. Franks, Trent (R-AZ)
Rep. Frelinghuysen, Rodney (R-NJ)
Rep. Garrett, Scott (R-NJ)
Rep. Gillmor, Paul (R-
Rep. Grijalva, Raul (D-AZ)
Rep. Hare, Phil (D-IL)

Rep. Herseth Sandlin, Stephanie (D-SD)
Rep. Hinojosa, Ruben (D-TX)
Rep. Hirono, Mazie (D-HI)
Rep. Holden, Tim (D-PA)
Rep. Holt, Rush (D-NJ)
Rep. Hooley, Darlene (D-OR)
Rep. Inglis, Bob (R-SC)
Rep. Jefferson, William (D-LA)
Rep. Kagen, Steve (D-WI)
Rep. Kind, Ron (D-WI)
Rep. McCollum, Betty (D-MN)
Rep. McNulty, Michael (D-NY)
Rep. Melancon, Charlie (D-LA)
Rep. Miller, Brad (D-NC)
Rep. Mollohan, Alan (D-WV)
Rep. Moore, Gwen (D-WI)
Rep. Murphy, Patrick (D-PA)

Rep. Musgrave, Marilyn (R-CO)
Rep. Lampson, Nick (D-TX)
Rep. Obey, David (D-WI)
Rep. Paul, Ron (R-TX)
Rep. Perlmutter, Ed (D-CO)
Rep. Peterson, Collin (D-MN)
Rep. Poe, Ted (R-TX)
Rep. Pomeroy, Earl (D-ND)
Rep. Ramstad, Jim (R-MN)
Rep. Rehberg, Dennis (R-MT)
Rep. Renzi, Rick (R-AZ)
Rep. Ross, Mike (D-AR)
Rep. Simpson, Mike (R-ID)
Rep. Sires, Albio (D-NJ)
Rep. Snyder, Vic (D-AR)
Rep. Space, Zack (D-OH)
Rep. Towns, Edolphus (D-NY)
Rep. Udall, Mark (D-CO)
Rep. Walz, Timothy (D-MN)
Rep. Wamp, Zach (R-TN)

S. 953 The Rail Competition and Service Improvement Act (Co-Sponsors: 13)

Sen. Rockefeller, John (D-WV)
Sen. Baucus, Max (D-MT)
Sen. Cantwell, Maria (D-WA)
Sen. Craig, Larry (R-ID)
Sen. Crapo, Mike (R-ID)

Sen. Dorgan, Byron (D-ND)
Sen. Feingold, Russ (D-WI)
Sen. Johnson, Tim (D-SD)
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy (D-MN)

Sen. Landrieu, Mary (D-LA)
Sen. Tester, Jon (D-MT)
Sen. Thune, John (R-SD)
Sen. Vitter, David (R-LA)



The Honorable James Oberstar
 Chairman
 Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

September 23, 2008

Dear Mr. Chairman,

As leading national organizations representing agriculture and other shipper interests whose members depend on rail for a significant portion of their transportation needs, we are writing to express our continued strong support for H.R. 2125, the Rail Competition and Service Improvement Act of 2007. We urge you to continue your leadership on this issue for the remainder of the 110th Congress and to make it a highest priority at the beginning of the next year.

Rail transportation remains a critical component to our industries as we move products to businesses and consumers all around the country. We continue to be supportive of safe, efficient, and economical rail infrastructure system. However, the lack of competition among the railroads has resulted in unreasonably high rates and unreliable service for captive shippers, which inevitably results in increasing costs for the consumer and loss of market share to international competitors.

Provisions included in H.R. 2125 remain critically important to ensure that rail customers have access to competitive rail service and that those rail customers without access to competition are protected from unreasonable railroad rates and anticompetitive practices, and have access to reliable rail service. The Final Offer Arbitration (FOA) provision, as included in H.R. 2125, is especially important, and we urge you to maintain this provision and extend it to shippers beyond agriculture.

We understand that little time remains in the 110th Congress to move this bill forward. However, we urge you to continue keeping this legislation a high priority and take action on it as expeditiously as possible at the beginning of next year. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to ensure that this legislation becomes law in 111th Congress.

Sincerely,

AGC Flat Glass North America, Inc.	National Farmers Union
Alliance for Rail Competition	Nebraska Wheat Board
American Sugarbeet Growers Association	North Dakota Grain Dealers Association
Basin Electric Power Cooperative	North Dakota Wheat Commission
Chippewa Valley Bean Company	Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association
Colorado Dry Bean Administrative Committee	Oregon Wheat Growers League
Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee	Otter Tail Power Company
Colorado Association of Wheat Growers	Owens Illinois, Inc.
Glass Producers Transportation Council	PPL Corporation
Idaho Barley Commission	South Dakota Wheat Commission
Idaho Grain Producers Association	South Dakota Wheat Inc.
Jack's Bean Company LLC	Texas Wheat Producers Board
Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers	Texas Wheat Producers Association
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association	U.S. Beet Sugar Association
Minnesota Barley Growers Association	United States Dry Bean Council
Montana Farm Bureau Federation	USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
Montana Farmers Union	USA Rice Federation
Montana Grain Growers Association	Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Montana Women Involved in Farm Economics	Washington Barley Commission
National Association of Wheat Growers	Washington Wheat Commission
National Barley Growers Association	Western Fuels
National Corn Growers Association	