



ARC

*Alliance for
Rail Competition*

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Federal News Update October 16, 2007

ARC Continues Grassroot Efforts in Preparation for Senate Hearing

The Senate Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security, in the Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee, plans to hold a hearing on October 23, 2007, to examine the issues of rail competition and service. At time of newsletter distribution, the hearing had not yet been formally announced.

According to Capitol Hill sources, the hearing will include two panels, one to consist of Government Accountability Office (GAO) and Surface Transportation Board (STB) representatives, and another to include rail customers and at least one railroad.

In preparation for the hearing, ARC sent a letter on Friday, co-signed by nine major agriculture groups, to all 100 Senators, urging their support of S. 953. A sample copy of the letter is attached.

Twelve Senators, six of whom sit on the Commerce, Science & Transportation panel, have co-sponsored the legislation.

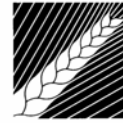
ACTION ALERT

In order to generate more support for this legislation, we ask that each member of ARC send a letter of support to the leadership of the Committee and Subcommittee expressing their support for S.953. Additionally, please encourage other individual shippers or shipper organization to send a similar letter. Such letters proved very effective in preparation for the House hearing, and will be even more important in the Senate, where Chairman Inouye has not yet co-sponsored the bill.

For convenience, a draft of the letter is included with this email distribution. Please feel free to insert your individual stories. Please email a copy of your letter to franboyd@meyersandassociates.com and to Sen. Rockefeller's staff at john_Richards@rockefeller.senate.gov



**NATIONAL
FARMERS
UNION**



**National
Barley
Growers
Association**



NCGA
www.ncga.com



United States Beet Sugar Association



The Honorable Byron Dorgan
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

October 11, 2007

Dear Senator Dorgan,

As leading national organizations representing a variety of agriculture interests whose members depend on rail for a significant portion of their transportation needs, we are writing to express our strong support for S. 953, the Rail Competition and Service Improvement Act of 2007, and to thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Rail transportation remains a critical component to the agriculture industry as it moves commodities to domestic and international markets from the producers in rural America. 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 the agriculture producers, which could result in loss of market share to international competitors.

S. 953 is 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 practices and have access to reliable rail service. The

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legislation also includes provisions such as final offer arbitration, which are especially important to the agriculture industry.

Chairman Inouye tentatively plans to hold a hearing in the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee on October 23, 2007 to discuss rail competition and service. We believe S. 953 goes a long way toward addressing the problems U.S. agriculture has had and continue to have with lack of rail competition and unreliable service. Thanks to your leadership, the legislation has a significant co-sponsorship from Senators representing agriculture constituencies. We hope that you continue to be a strong advocate of this legislation as it moves through the Senate.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Rail Competition

American Soybean Association

American Sugarbeet Growers Association

National Associations of Wheat Growers

National Barley Growers Association

National Corn Growers Association

National Farmers Union

United States Beet Sugar Association

USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council

US Dry Bean Council

USA Rice Federation