



Consumer Federation of America



Alliance for Rural America



National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Support Consumers Cosponsor S. 638

Put an End to Special Railroad Antitrust Exemptions

- **The Railroad Antitrust Enforcement Act is a consumer protection bill.** It does away with the outdated special antitrust exemption that allow the nation's freight railroads to avoid competition and therefore keep their rates artificially and unfairly high. These unjustifiably high rail rates are a hidden tax on consumers, inflating prices on everyday items like food, electricity, paper, manufactured goods and nearly everything else we buy.
- **The Railroad Antitrust Enforcement Act ensures fair competition in the marketplace.** Removing the special antitrust exemptions means railroads will be required to compete on a level playing field. Competition benefits all consumers by keeping prices fair and reasonable.
- **The Railroad Antitrust Enforcement Act ensures that railroads will be treated just like all other American industries.** All other transportation companies across all modes are covered by the nation's antitrust laws. Why should the railroads be treated differently at the expense of consumers?
- **Imagine consolidations in the airline, telecom or pharmaceutical industries without the Department of Justice or the Federal Trade Commission ensuring consumers are protected through compliance with the nation's antitrust laws.** The railroad industry's special antitrust exemptions prevent the DOJ and FTC from ensuring compliance with the nation's antitrust laws.
- **The Senate Judiciary Committee overwhelmingly approved the Railroad Antitrust Enforcement Act of 2011 by a bipartisan vote of 14-1 in the 112th Congress.** S.638 is identical to the legislation that was reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee in the last Congress but not considered by the full Senate.

IT'S TIME TO STAND WITH AMERICA'S CONSUMERS

March 2013