



Freight Rail Customer Alliance

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FRCA Supports the Reliable Rail Service Act

“The Freight Rail Customer Alliance (**FRCA**) appreciates the continued leadership of Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) in re-introducing the bi-partisan [Reliable Rail Service Act, S. 2071](#), and especially thanks Senator Roger Marshall (R-KS) for jointly sponsoring this important measure,” stated FRCA’s President Shelley Sahling-Zart.

“This bill is consistent with FRCA’s longstanding policy goals and objectives by providing the Surface Transportation Board (STB) with enhanced tools to hold railroads accountable for reasonable service at reasonable rates,” she added. “This bill addresses ongoing rail service problems experienced by FRCA members complicated by our nation’s supply chain challenges and the railroads’ implementation of Precision Scheduled Railroading (PSR),” said FRCA Vice President Emily Regis.

FRCA Spokesperson Ann Warner, added that “most FRCA members, who generate and distribute electricity to our nation’s homes and businesses, can only receive their energy source(s) by freight rail under a Federal requirement known as the “Common Carrier Obligation” (COO). Since its inception, this principle is vague, allowing railroads to skirt their COO, leaving utilities across the country vulnerable in serving their customers’ electricity needs, especially during severe heat or cold, because they are not receiving the needed amounts of fuel. This bill would clarify the COO statutory provision and provide the STB flexibility when determining if a railroad is meeting its COO. It would facilitate enforcing service performance standards and provide enhanced transparency.”

Joining FRCA in supporting this bill are over 50 other aligned shipper stakeholder groups including organized labor.

“FRCA remains committed to working with Congress in addressing systemic and continued poor shipper service as this bill moves forward,” concluded Sahling-Zart.

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About FRCA

The Freight Rail Customer Alliance (FRCA), www.railvoices.org, is an umbrella membership organization that includes large trade associations representing more than 3,500 electric utility, agriculture, chemical, and alternative fuel companies, and their consumers. The mission of FRCA’s growing coalition of industries and associations is to obtain changes in Federal law and policy that will provide all freight shippers with reliable rail service at competitive prices. www.railvoices.org