



**For Immediate Release:**

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## **FRCA Praises Trump Administration Budget Request For STB**

Washington, DC – The Freight Rail Customers Alliance (FRCA) today praised the Trump Administration for proposing a slight increase in the Surface Transportation Board’s (STB’s) budget for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 beginning October 1.

The budget request, publicly released earlier this week, requests \$37.1 million for the STB, a \$100,000 increase from the \$37 million appropriated by the U.S. Congress for the current FY 2017.

“In this difficult budgetary environment, we are pleased that the Trump Administration saw fit to provide an increase for the STB for FY 2018, especially after Congress provided the STB with a needed funding increase for FY 2017,” said FRCA President David Sauer, chief operating officer and senior vice president of Dakota Gasification Company (Dakota Gas), Bismarck ND, a subsidiary of Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

According to budget documents, the STB requires adequate resources to perform key functions, including rail rate reasonableness oversight; the processing of rail consolidations, licensing, and other restructuring proposals; and, the resolution of non-rail matters. The budget request includes funding to implement extensive upgrades to the STB’s information technology (IT) infrastructure and capabilities, along with \$1.6 million to cover the planned relocation of the agency in FY 2018.

“FRCA will work with the Administration and the Congress to enact legislation appropriating the maximum possible funding for the STB,” said FRCA Executive Director Ann Warner. “We need to help ensure that the efforts of the Board continue – particularly enhancing its IT infrastructure and data collection capabilities,” added Warner.

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### **ABOUT FRCA**

An umbrella membership organization, the Freight Rail Customer Alliance (FRCA) includes large trade associations representing more than 3,500 electric utility, agriculture, and alternative fuel companies and their consumers. Through a growing coalition of industries and associations, the mission of FRCA 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](http://www.railvoices.org).