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Dr. William Huneke
Director, Office of Economics
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

October 1, 2019

Dear Dr. Huneke:

Thank you for providing the previous confidential Waybill Sample data for calendar year 2017. I am again writing on behalf of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to request the latest confidential Waybill Sample data for calendar years 2011 through 2015. SCAG is interested in utilizing the data for the continued analysis of regional freight flows.

Specifically, SCAG has recently begun a comprehensive integrated passenger and freight rail study for most of southern California, which is focused on identifying freight and passenger mainline funding strategies for needed capacity and operational improvements. The project's baseline year of analysis is 2018. The economic forecast portion of this study will be relying on multiple sources of information such as historical and forecast data from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach regarding containerized trade, and historical and forecast employment information. The STB Waybill Sample data will provide a critical piece for freight rail flows to and out of the region; having a historical trend will be valuable in developing future forecasts.

We are in need of credible survey based regional commodity flow data that could serve to continually improve model components and inform regional studies and analysis. We acknowledge and can attest to the value of the confidential Waybill Sample data as a critical component of the analysis of commodity flow by rail system, in validating model inputs and outputs. For our analysis, we are again requesting the full 900 byte confidential Waybill Sample data with detailed information about the origins and destinations of commodities/shipments and its cost/revenue information, etc., for the calendar years 2011 through 2015.

We understand that there is an administrative fee to cover the cost of obtaining the data and can work with you, as we have in the past, to ensure timely payment. If there are any questions or additional information required, please contact me at yoona@scag.ca.gov or (213) 236- 1991.

Best regards

Stephen S. Yoon,
Senior Regional Planner