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Director
Office of Economics
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

September 9, 2020

Dear Director,

The purpose of this letter is to request confidential Waybill Sample data. Dr. Nick Piggott, Robert Thompson, and I plan to use these data for ongoing research.

Specifically, we are requesting (a) unmasked waybills for 2018 with STCCs starting 011 and 204 terminating in VA, NC, and SC, and (b) continued access to the 1990-2017 data already in our possession from WB19-31 and extension WB20-24. We would like to combine these requests so that we have one, rather than multiple, renewal deadlines for these data.

These data would be used in a project titled "North Carolina Corn Basis Fundamentals – Continued (Year 2)." Our objectives are to better understand corn markets in North Carolina, which is critical to our state's animal agriculture industry. [According to USDA](#), the top 3 agricultural commodities by farm receipts in 2019 are broilers, hogs, and turkeys – together these commodities account for over half of North Carolina cash receipts. The waybill data will be used in the context of comparing supplemental sources of feedstuffs to local supply.

As with the previous WB19-31, access to the confidential data is necessary because other potential data sources do not contain enough information. Table 7 of the USDA Grain Transportation Report does include posted rates for two routes (one corn, one soybeans) terminating in North Carolina. However, these rates are unlikely to be representative because they are for a single carrier – we have two Class I carriers – most movements occur under contract, and USDA data only go back to 2010. Other potential data sources are infrequent and do not include the revenue data needed to assess total corn prices and characterize regional agricultural commodity flows.

We are aware access to these data comes with the responsibility to ensure these data remain confidential, and can provide you with a data management plan upon request. Finally, we have funds for fees associated with obtaining these data.

Sincerely,

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