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Surface Transportation Board (STB) Members

Re: April 26-27 hearing on rail service issues

Dear STB Members:

On behalf of the California Chapter of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (CA ARPAS), I'm sending this letter in advance of your hearing regarding rail service issues. California's Livestock Industry is a national leader in the production of wholesome, nutritious and high-quality protein foods such as milk, meat, and cheese. As such, reliable rail service is critical to supply needed grains and commodities ensuring that these foodstuffs are produced as efficiently and economically as possible.

Delays and uncertainty in rail transportation to California's Livestock Feed Manufacturing sector are causing significant problems in feeding livestock and poultry leading to shortages in meat and dairy products. Undoubtedly, this leads to increased food costs for our nation's families, many of which are already struggling with increased food prices and food insecurity.

We strongly urge you consider the consequences of continued rail service carrier "precision scheduling" practices and request that STB have rail service carriers provide annual service plans which reduce the probability of service disruptions. We appreciate you listening to and considering our viewpoint and assessment.

Sincerely,

Clay Samper, MS, PAS

President, CA ARPAS

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