



STB To Rail Customers Want Better Service and Better Prices? Build Your Own Railroad

Imagine that only one railroad company serves your business.

Imagine that you can not gain access to a competing rail system because federal regulations allow railroads to prevent customer access to competition...requiring you to purchase all rail services from one railroad company.

Imagine that the federal regulatory body responsible for resolving railroad rate and service disputes tells you: If you want better service - build your own railroad.

Well -- imagine no more!

In recent statements, Roger Nober, Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board (STB) has said just that.

Here are a few select quotes:

- “Singly-served rail customers...may work with that railroad...to construct a new rail line to the singly-served facility to gain rail competition.” *March 31, 2004 testimony to the Railroad Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, p. 12.*
- “Rail construction is a self-help answer to improving competitive options.” *March 29, 2004 Rail Business article, p. 8.*
- “Construction projects represent the best way to balance the need for greater competition with the importance of preserving the private rail network.” *March 31, 2004 testimony to the Railroad Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, p. 14.*
- “Permitting railroads to construct new lines to reach customers is the right way to promote rail-to-rail competition.” *May 9, 2003 press release announcing the STB had authorized the “Bayport Loop” to provide competition near Houston. Construction of the “Loop” is blocked by local opposition.*

It doesn't take any imagination to see why Congress must Act to ensure fairness to rail customers and to ensure that domestic manufacturers and producers have access to competitive rail rates in their competition against foreign imports.

Support Competition - Pass H.R. 2924 and S. 919