

# Member News!

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## PSC Commissioner Parker Rallies for Rail Reform

Alabama PSC Commissioner Susan Parker spoke at CURE’s (Consumers United for Rail Equity) Annual Rail Customer Day on May 5th in Washington D.C. rallying a packed room of U.S. Senators and stakeholders. “I want to say that the nation’s State utility regulators stand with all of you today to bring some real reform and competition to the freight rail industry,” Com. Parker said.



Commissioner Parker speaks at Rail Customer Day in the Senate with CURE Executive Director Bob Szabo

Parker is the Second VP of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). This issue is important to NARUC members because many electric utilities rely on rail shipments of coal to fuel their generating plants. Since the cost of rail transportation is included in the all-in price for power, higher rail rates are eventually passed through to retail ratepayers. “I’m here to tell you that this issue isn’t just limited to

chemical manufacturers, utilities, and other large customers,” Com. Parker said. “As a regulator of

electric utilities in Alabama I can tell you first hand that the price of shipping coal via rail is hurting retail residential customers, people like you and me.” Although NARUC is not a member of CURE, it supports CURE’s legislative goals such as reforming the STB to make it a stronger agency, and removing the railroads’ antitrust exemption. Time is tight on the legislative clock, but Com. Parker said NA-

RUC remains fully engaged in the debate. “I am here today because I am optimistic that this is the year Congress acts,” Com. Parker said.

At the Rally, Com. Parker shared the stage with Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John Rockefeller, who authored the STB reform legislation, S.2889, and Sens. Herb Kohl, leading sponsor of the antitrust exemption legislation, S.146 Amy Klobuchar, and the retiring Byron Dorgan. In addition, several rail customers spoke as well, representing the chemical, agriculture, and electric utility industries.

MA would like to thank Com. Parker for standing up for rail shippers in Alabama and across the nation.

Once again, CURE’s initiative will be a top issue on the agenda at MA’s annual Fly-In in D.C. next month. To continue following MA’s and CURE’s efforts go to the MA website at [www.manufacturealabama.org](http://www.manufacturealabama.org) and follow the CURE link or visit CURE’s website at [www.railcure.org](http://www.railcure.org).

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## Annual Fall Meeting

Mark you calendars! MA’s annual Fall Meeting is scheduled for September 16-17, 2010, at the Marriott Grand Hotel Resort in Point Clear, Alabama.

We will keep you posted as more details unfold.

## Welcome New Members

**Partners:**

- **Eagle –SWS**
- **Emergency Response Services**
- **Jedson Engineering**
- **The MAT Group**
- **Trinity Consultants**