



THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION LEAGUE

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NITL SUPPORTS SENATE RAIL COMPETITION BILL

The National Industrial Transportation League (NITL) announced today its support for S. 2889, the "Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization Act of 2009." This decision was made by the Board of Directors after a careful and comprehensive study of the bill which was approved by the Senate's Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee in mid-December. The Board's action endorses the recommendation of the League's Railroad Transportation Committee which met last month in Atlanta, GA.

In announcing the organization's support for S. 2889, NITL President Bruce Carlton said, "Chairman Rockefeller asserted effective leadership on this important legislation, and the result is a bipartisan, fair compromise that balances the competitive interests of the nation's railroads and their customers. The NITL wants a strong, healthy rail industry that will move the nation's commerce efficiently in an enhanced competitive environment for rail customers. This is a major step in that direction."

In addition to recognizing Chairman Rockefeller, the NITL expressly commends the bill's co-sponsors, Senators Hutchison, Dorgan, Lautenberg and Thune for their leadership in advancing the legislation. It also pledges to continue its efforts to work with Congress and all interested parties in achieving the best possible bill which can be enacted this year.

In announcing its support of S. 2889, the NITL noted the bill:

- Puts emphasis on protection of captive shippers;
- Improves shippers access to competing carriers, trackage and terminals;
- Expands STB membership and enhances staff support;
- Raises rate caps in small and medium rate cases; and,
- Improves the STB's overall regulatory processes.

Randy Brown, chairman of the NITL's Railroad Transportation Committee added "our support for S. 2889 also marks the League's determination to be actively engaged in the legislative process which will enhance the ability of shippers to effectively serve their own facilities and customers when rail service is the only practical option."

The NITL is an association of companies that conduct industrial and/or commercial shipping throughout the United States and internationally. Founded in 1907, the organization is one of the oldest and largest associations in the country representing some 600 member companies many of which utilize freight railroads to transport their supplies and products.