

September 21, 2007

The Honorable Herb Kohl
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust,
Competition Policy and Consumer Rights
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Kohl:

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) applauds and supports your efforts in the passage of the Railroad Antitrust Enforcement Act of 2007 (S 772), which would increase competitiveness in the railroad shipping industry. A safe, secure, efficient and fair rail system is a critical component of our national infrastructure system. Establishing regulations and amending statutes to improve transportation services to communities and businesses is necessary to bolster the economic competitiveness of our regions and entire nation.

NARC, representing Councils of Government (COGs), Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs), serves as the national voice for regionalism – advocating regional cooperation as the most effective way to address a variety of community planning, development and infrastructure issues. COGs and MPOs are responsible for billions of dollars in transportation planning and programming each year, coordinating the overall planning and programming for projects and operations regionally throughout the country. These regional agencies are knowledgeable about the transportation issues that cut across city, county and, often times, state boundaries. Their expertise in regional transportation financing, planning and development, and new, emerging technologies will be an asset in the fight to combat congestion and improve our infrastructure.

Railroads, with their capacity to efficiently move goods and services throughout this country, play a key role in this system and, therefore, it is necessary to maximize the effective performance of our railroads and strengthen our national transportation and infrastructure network. NARC fully supports all efforts to improve rail capacity and service, further strengthen our transportation system. NARC strongly encourages the involvement of regional planning organizations as partners on any transportation proposals your Committee or personal office might consider.

We commend your leadership on these important issues and offer our assistance for all transportation issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can be of assistance. I can be reached at 202.986.1032 x 213 or cmoore@narc.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Cameron Moore
Executive Director