



Transportation

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Effective and affordable transportation is essential to wheat growers' profitability. A railroad system that functions for both rail companies and users and surface transportation law that takes into account the unique needs of agriculture are key priorities for NAWG and its member states.

Rail Reform Legislation

In light of continued rail rate and service problems and a lack of assistance from the Surface Transportation Board (STB), NAWG works with both railroad companies and with other captive shippers on a continuing basis to find legislative and non-legislative solutions that will work for producers.

NAWG supports passage of comprehensive rail reform legislation and urges "yes" votes on S. 2889.

A comprehensive rail reform bill passed by the Senate Commerce Committee in December, S. 2889, would reauthorize and recharter the STB and make a number of needed reforms that will improve competitive conditions and transparency in the rail industry and provide improved mechanisms for challenging rates.

If finalized, ag producers can expect a more responsive and accessible board and new shipper-friendly elements like an office of customer advocate and ombudsman program and an arbitration mechanism that is designed to be timely, cost-effective and accessible to producers. NAWG and other stakeholders that have been involved in the construction of the bill believe it represents a balanced compromise to address the needs of both the shipping community and railroads.

NAWG also supports the Railroad Antitrust Enforcement Act of 2009 (H.R. 233 and S. 146) that would amend federal antitrust laws to bring railroads under Justice Department oversight.

NAWG supports a "farm to market" exemption from interstate commerce regulatory enforcement.

Transportation Reauthorization

NAWG staff continues to monitor discussions surrounding the reauthorization of surface transportation law, which expired Sept. 30 and has been extended through continuing resolutions. Key priorities during the reauthorization process will be ensuring surface transportation regulations take into proper account the unusual nature of farming operations and transportation needs.

Specifically, NAWG supports a farm to market exemption from interstate commerce regulatory enforcement to allow the movement of wheat from the farm gate to its first point of delivery where title is transferred within the state of origin. NAWG also supports maintaining the agricultural hours of service exemption that is critical to facilitate the long hours necessary to conduct business during harvest season.

Learn More

More about wheat growers' transportation priorities at www.wheatworld.org/transportation.

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