

Statement regarding an Agreement by Senators Kohl (D-WI) and Rockefeller (D-WV) to Move Forward on Comprehensive Rail Legislative Efforts

The undersigned organizations represent a cross-section of agricultural interests that are dependent on an efficient and competitive rail transportation network for the effective movement of agricultural goods to market. As such, our organizations have been active for many years in pressing for legislation that would improve the competitive conditions in the rail industry and bring about meaningful relief for rail shippers.

We believe meaningful reform and relief can be best accomplished through passage of comprehensive rail legislation focused on reforming the Surface Transportation Board (STB), improving competitive conditions in the industry, and providing meaningful access to rate and service relief mechanisms.

We recognize and appreciate the multiple efforts ongoing to improve competitive conditions in the rail industry, including the efforts of Senator Kohl and his colleagues to strengthen the application of antitrust laws to the railroad industry and the efforts of Senator Rockefeller and his colleagues to craft comprehensive legislation that would provide meaningful reform to the STB and address concerns of rail shippers.

We are pleased that efforts to achieve a comprehensive bill are moving forward and U.S. Agriculture stands ready to work with Senators Rockefeller, Kohl and others toward the goal of comprehensive legislation that is critical to the agricultural community.

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Soybean Association
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Chicken Council
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Farmers Union
National Grain and Feed Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Sorghum Producers
North American Millers' Association
The Fertilizer Institute
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Rice Federation
U.S. Beet Sugar Association