Statement
For Immediate Release
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ACC APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF FREIGHT RAIL REFORM LEGISLATION IN THE SENATE

WASHINGTON (March 25, 2015) – The U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation passed today S. 808, the “Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization Act of 2015” by a unanimous voice vote. The vote comes just days after the bipartisan bill’s introduction, which received widespread support from rail customers.

ACC President and CEO Cal Dooley issued the following statement regarding the Committee’s approval of this important legislation:

“Chairman Thune, Ranking Member Nelson and the Committee deserve a great deal of credit for listening to the concerns of a broad group of freight rail customers and approving sensible reforms that will improve how the Surface Transportation Board (STB) addresses freight rail issues. Specifically, the bill will make many important changes that will streamline the STB’s overly burdensome rate review standards, provide reasonable arbitration procedures to resolve rate disputes, and allow the STB to be more proactive in resolving freight rail issues.

“We strongly urge members in both the House and Senate to support the meaningful and reasonable changes proposed in the ‘Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization Act of 2015.’ We also encourage the STB to follow Congress’s lead and take action on a series of reforms currently under consideration by the Board that will help address ongoing rate and service issues. We look forward to working with Congress and the STB on advancing these long-overdue reforms, which will help foster a strong freight rail system and will benefit both railroads and shippers.”

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The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people's lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care®, common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is an $812 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation’s economy. It is the nation’s largest exporter, accounting for twelve percent of all U.S. exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation’s critical infrastructure.