The Honorable William Shuster  
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  

April 17, 2013  

Dear Chairman Shuster:

I am writing to request an opportunity for the American Chemistry Council (ACC) to participate in the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee’s recently announced “Panel on 21st Century Freight Transportation.” I enjoyed our recent meeting, and ACC would appreciate an opportunity to present our policy positions that we discussed in front of this special panel.

ACC represents the world’s leading companies in the business of chemistry, a $760 billion enterprise and one of America’s most significant manufacturing industries. In 2011, the business of chemistry’s capital investments reached $33 billion in structures and equipment, and we expect that number to continue to grow in the coming years. Chemical manufacturers are one of the nation’s largest shippers, moving over 847 million tons of products every year. The success of the chemical sector in the United States is inexorably tied to our freight infrastructure, as transportation costs have a large influence on America’s relative attractiveness as a manufacturing location.

ACC’s membership constitutes one of the largest stakeholders in the freight rail sector. Chemical products are the second-largest commodity sector in terms of annual rail tonnage (about 190 million tons of traffic) and railroad freight revenue (more than $9 billion). The chemistry industry is reliant on rail transportation and often has no other viable means to move our products to diverse customer industries throughout the economy. These chemical products are moved by rail to locations where they are needed to generate energy, produce food, manufacture goods and disinfect drinking water.
ACC and its members look forward to working constructively with the Committee, promoting policies that reduce the need for federal regulation over the freight rail sector, and supporting free market forces to the greatest extent possible. As one of the largest industries in the country and one of the biggest customers of freight rail service, we believe that we can offer an important perspective and serve as a helpful partner in helping the members of the Committee create freight rail policies that will meet the nation’s needs.

Sincerely,

Cal Dooley

cc: The Honorable John J. Duncan, Jr., TN
    The Honorable Gary Miller, CA
    The Honorable Rick Crawford, AR
    The Honorable Richard Hanna, NY
    The Honorable Daniel Webster, FL
    The Honorable Markwayne Mullin, OK