Forced Switching Faces Widespread Opposition

Delays due to freight train interference... can have a cascading effect on commuter operations, and a devastating effect on the daily lives of our customers.

February 2022 STB Filing

[Reciprocal switching] would add unnecessary operational complexities, and compromise the efficiency and fluidity of both freight and passenger rail operations.

February 2022 STB Filing

If the proposed changes are adopted and are actually effective (an outcome the unions doubt...), the result would be lower rates for the proponents of required reciprocal switching, which would mean a reduction of revenue for the railroads, which would ultimately be damaging to rail workers.

February 2022 STB Filing

We believe that [forced switching] will significantly harm the ability of the nation’s freight railroads to continue their strong records of performance and investment since the passage of Staggers.

February 2022 STB Filing

We fear [forced switching] will make freight railroading less efficient, routing more complex, and decrease infrastructure investment into the rail network.

February 2022 STB Filing

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The most urgent issue raised by this proposal, and the focus of this comment, is the loss of safety that would likely occur were reciprocal switching to be mandated.

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Absent a definitive showing of market failure and a conclusive cost–benefit analysis, the efforts contemplated under [forced switching] are unjustified.

February 2022 STB Filing

The STB’s proposed reciprocal switching regulations would add complexity and delay during unprecedented economic uncertainty.

February 2022 STB Filing

The results [of forced switching] should be obvious, including reduced network efficiencies, slower rail traffic, and increased costs for customers.

February 2022 STB Filing

Slowdowns in the freight rail sector would hinder passenger rail operations. They would also compel more truck movements that negatively impact roads and bridges.

February 2022 STB Filing

Railroads must have the resources to continue private investment, and customers must be able to secure affordable, market-based shipping services.

February 2022 STB Filing

The result [of forced switching] would be more supply chain disruptions and higher inflation. That’s not an outcome that anyone wants right now.

February 2022 Blog Post

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