



ARC

*Alliance for
Rail Competition*

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To ARC Membership,

The ARC Executive Committee held its annual meeting and Board session on January 4. At that meeting there was extensive discussion by the Committee on transportation challenges that the railroads are causing in their respective companies and/or industries. It was a common theme that the railroads are continuing in general to take advantage of their monopoly status.

The Board voted on keeping the current Officers and Executive Director.

An update was given on the activities that took place on the legislative front this past year in D.C. To summarize, we continue to work closely with the staff of the Senate Commerce Committee to make sure as many of the issues facing rail shippers are included in the transportation policy legislation that is sent to the Senate floor. We are also meeting with all of the new members of the Senate Commerce Committee in an effort to educate them as to the unique issues facing rail shippers, in particular those of captive shippers. In addition, we continue to closely monitor the legislative activity in other House and Senate committees to assure that legislation promoted by the railroads gets challenged if against the policies of the rail shipping community. These efforts are done in close contact with other rail shipper organizations and interests to assure we are working together toward a mutual legislative goal.

A report was also given on the major efforts that took place on proceedings before the STB. Terry Whiteside (ARC Chairman) and John Cutler (ARC Counsel) led the discussion about the WCTL Premium cases, the competition hearings and filings, the Montana 48/52 car unreasonable practice proceedings, and Ex Parte 712, IMPROVING REGULATION AND REGULATORY REVIEW that is just starting.

The Executive Committee also reviewed the Mission, Strategy and Plan for the coming year and recommended we stay the course for 2012. A copy is attached.

After the Executive Session, the EC members met in the afternoon with all the STB board members individually (Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Begemen, and Board Member Mulvey) to develop a relationship, share transportation experiences and discuss some of the transportation concerns of Executive Committee members.

Following those meetings Terry and Wayne Hurst (ARC Secretary/President of National Association of Wheat Growers) participated in a meeting between USDA Agricultural Marketing Transportation staff and Chairman Elliott. The meeting was set up by Terry to facilitate a closer working relationship between the two groups. As a result of the meeting, Chairman Elliott and Bruce Blanton (who is Chief of the Transportation Unit for AMS (Agricultural Marketing Service)) in USDA committed to work together to develop solutions of some of the captive shipper problems that both groups have.

Mike Snovitch
Executive Director ARC