



# ARC

## Alliance for Rail Competition

412 First St. S.E., Suite One, Washington, DC 20003  
Phone (202) 484-7133, Fax: (202) 484-0770 [www.railcompetition.org](http://www.railcompetition.org)

### **Federal News Update December 19, 2008**

#### **ARC Meets with Leaders of Agriculture Groups**

At the request of the American Sugar Alliance (ASA), Terry Whiteside, ARC Chairman, and Mike Snovitch, ARC Executive Director, were in Washington, DC, this week to discuss with 25 organization and policy leaders how the railroad monopoly adversely affects agriculture interests and the increasing momentum that the shipper community is experiencing on Capitol Hill.

Taking advantage of their time in DC, Whiteside and Snovitch, along with ARC legislative counsels at Meyers & Associates, met with leadership of several other key national agriculture groups, as well as House and Senate leadership staff, to plan activity in the next Congress.

#### **Congress Completed Its Work**

While Congress has not adjourned sine die (to prevent any recess appointment by President Bush, which would bypass Senate confirmation and be effective for one year), Congress has effectively completed its work for the 110<sup>th</sup> Session. It will begin 111<sup>th</sup> Session on January 6, 2009, with the swearing in of the new members. President-elect Obama will be inaugurated on January 20.

#### **LaHood to Become Obama's Transportation Secretary**

Several major news sources are reporting that Cong. Ray LaHood (R-IL) has accepted an offer to become the Transportation Secretary in the Obama Administration.

LaHood will become a second Republican to hold a cabinet post in the Obama Administration. He is retiring from Congress after having represented a rural Illinois district since 1995. During his tenure, he has become a key player in the Illinois delegation, utilizing his position on the powerful Appropriations committee, and developed a close relationship with then-Sen. Obama and Cong. Rahm Emmanuel, now the White House Chief of Staff. A moderate Republican, LaHood had not shied away from criticizing the Bush Administration, and is known for working with leaders of both parties.

An official announcement of the LaHood nomination is expected soon.

**Happy Holidays to All from ARC Leadership!**