



ARC

*Alliance for
Rail Competition*

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Federal News Update February 26, 2010

ARC Executive Committee Devises Plan for 2010

ARC Executive Committee held its annual meeting in Washington, DC, in the offices of Meyers & Associates, on February 4, 2010. The main focus of the meeting was the 2010 legislative advocacy plan in support of ARC goals and mission. The updated work plan, which is anchored in the Congressional reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Board, is available on our website www.railcompetition.org.

Railroads Organize Capitol Hill Lobby Day

Representatives of the major railroads were on Capitol Hill this week for their “lobbying” day. The railroad industry’s briefing documents are not publically available as of this newsletter, but it is expected that they oppose S. 2889, the Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization bill, and attempt to persuade members of the Senate to keep it from moving forward. In anticipation of this organized opposition from the railroads, fourteen major shipper advocacy groups, including ARC, sent a letter to the leadership of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee reaffirming their support for S. 2889. The letter reiterates specifically that while S. 2889 did not include every policy requests of captive shippers, it was crafted as a true compromise between the railroad industry and the shipper community. The letter reminds the Senators that S. 2889 involved all stakeholders and thus any potential claims by the railroad industry that this bill is “anti-railroad” are false. A copy of the bill is included with this newsletter. All ARC members are encouraged to contact their Senators to reiterate their support of S. 2889 given the recent organized opposition on Capitol Hill from the railroads.

House Sub-Committee Schedules Hearing regarding STB Reauthorization

House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials has just announced that it will hold a hearing on the topic of Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization on March 23. Committee Chairman James Oberstar (D-WI) is a staunch supporter of rail shipper rights and has been playing a key role in this legislative effort, however the Sub-Committee has held very pro-railroad hearings in the past.