



ARC

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Federal News Update Oct 9, 2009

Senate Draft of Shipper Legislation Expected This Month

ARC Washington representatives have received some indications that the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation committee may release a draft of the shipper legislation as early as this month. ARC has been working with staff of the committee to ensure that our members' priorities were being heard and considered. Other shipper organizations have also joined ARC in working with the committee. As soon as the draft is available, we will provide detailed analysis of the bill.

There have been some rumors that the railroad industry has reached an agreement with the Committee on the final bill provisions. ARC has confirmed that such rumors are untrue as the legislation is still being drafted and any assertions that any one side has agreed to a final package are not possible.

Earlier this year, Chairman of the Commerce Committee, Sen. Rockefeller reached an agreement with Sen. Herb Kohl, sponsor of the railroad antitrust legislation, to move one comprehensive railroad reform bill through the Senate rather than working on separate antitrust and service improvement packages. That agreement, advocated by ARC and other shipper groups, was a major development for captive shippers as the antitrust legislation alone would not have addressed some of the more immediate concerns such as escalation rates and deteriorating service.