



ARC

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ARC Representatives Participate in Oberstar Breakfast

Following a successful hearing earlier this week, Cong. James Oberstar (D-MN), Chairman of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, addressed a large breakfast gathering of rail shipper interests and press in Washington to discuss his plans to move the Rail Competition and Service Improvement Act (HR 2125) forward. ARC Washington Representatives participated in the event.

Oberstar was confident that despite strong opposition from the railroad lobby, HR 2125 had a strong chance of becoming law, even if it meant having to wait for the next Administration. Oberstar assured the group of supporters that the bill will be passed by his Committee and will go to the House floor for a full vote as soon as time could be scheduled. He conceded that it might be difficult to go to the floor before the House of Representatives plans to adjourn on November 16, due to a long list of other items that have to be addressed by Congress. However, he said, he would seek to move the bill "very early" in the next session, which will begin in January.

Thanks to the efforts of ARC members, HR 2125 boasts a strong bi-partisan number of co-sponsors. However, the grass root effort needs to continue as Chairman Oberstar relies on ARC and other shipper interests to urge members of Congress to support the legislation when it comes up in the committee and on the House floor.