

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 4, 1998

The Northeast-Midwest Senate and Congressional Coalitions

Lunch Briefing: The United States Freight Railroad Industry – Beyond Crisis, Toward Opportunity

Dear Colleague:

We are pleased to invite you and your staff to a luncheon briefing on the United States freight railroad industry. Specifically, the briefing will address freight transportation's relevance to the Northeast-Midwest region, and will explore the role of freight transportation in economic development and environmental planning.

**Wednesday, December 9
U.S. Capitol, SC-5
12:00-1:30PM**

Sponsors of the event, and moderators of the discussion, are Michael Sussman and Drew Miller with Strategic Rail Finance, a consulting group working to coordinate public and private project funding for freight railroads and to create a new program in Congress for future transportation planning and investment.

Featured speakers include:

Doug Golden - President of Main Line Management, a railroad consulting firm. Mr. Golden has also owned and managed several shortline railroads throughout the Northeast.

Rob Finley - Transportation Consultant for Putnam, Hayes & Bartlett, an International Management and Economic Consulting Firm. Mr. Finley has also been CFO for several regional railroads.

Tony Hatch - Wall Street rail industry analyst and financial consultant, formerly of NatWest Securities.

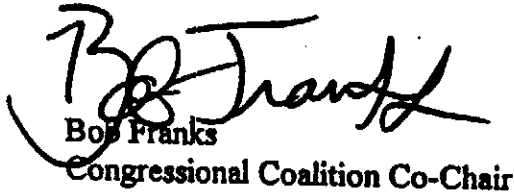
Concerns, questions, thoughts, ideas, and myths about freight railroads will be addressed during this briefing as we look to the future of freight transportation planning and investment. For those of us unfamiliar with the unique aspects of freight railroads, a basic primer also will be included.

Full buffet lunch will be served at 12:00, with table discussion beginning at 12:15, and full meeting from 12:30 - 1:30. If you have any questions please contact either Cameron Taylor at 224-0606, or Tim Daniels at 225-5361. We look forward to seeing you there.

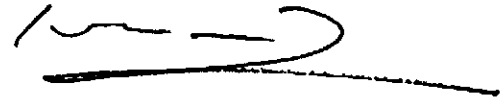
Sincerely,



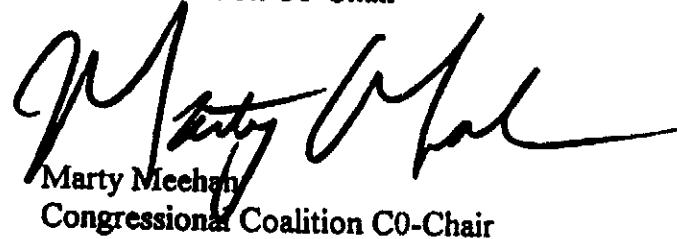
Jim Jeffords
Senate Coalition Co-Chair



Bob Franks
Congressional Coalition Co-Chair



Daniel Patrick Moynihan
Senate Coalition Co-Chair



Marty Meehan
Congressional Coalition Co-Chair