

Strategic Rail Finance

CONSULTING AND FUNDING THE RAILROAD INDUSTRY

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November 17, 1997

Mr. Andy Garfinkel
Office of Rep. Rosa DeLauro
436 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Garfinkel,

I appreciate your efforts in bringing excellent legislation to the fore in the form of H.R. 712, The National Infrastructure Development Act of 1997.

As our country so successfully demonstrated in the last century, infrastructure projects provide an ideal opportunity for leveraging limited public dollars into substantial access to private capital.

The longevity, vitality, and environmental efficiency of the freight railroad system (90% of the United States' 125,000 route miles have been operating for over 100 years), speaks to our benefits from their inclusion in any comprehensive infrastructure planning.

As I read the elements of H.R. 712, specifically sec. 4, page 5, definition (4) INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITY, I have observed that freight rail projects have not been included in this important definition. I wish to point out this omission to you. Are you aware of the circumstances behind this omission? Perhaps, as in many other situations pertaining to freight railroads, there has simply been a lack of awareness.

We remain committed to assisting you in this important legislative effort.

Sincerely,



Michael Sussman
President