

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

Office of the President

Edward R. Hamberger
President and Chief Executive Officer

June 14, 2004

The Honorable Bill Thomas
Chairman
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Thomas:

The members of the nation's class 1 freight railroad industry would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership in advancing H.R. 4520, the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004. As an industry that plays a critical role in the movement of international trade, we applaud your efforts to resolve the current tax environment that has led to retaliatory European tariffs against many of our nation's exporters.

While the nation's economy is clearly gaining steam, this important bill will help fuel additional manufacturing and job creation in the months and years ahead. As you are aware, U.S. freight railroads move vast amounts of just about everything, connecting businesses with each other across the country and with markets overseas over a rail network spanning some 142,000 route miles.

We stand ready to support your steadfast efforts to spur imports to and exports from our nation and to revamp the international tax environment necessary for resolving the current impasse threatening America's economy.

Sincerely,



Edward R. Hamberger