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December 18, 2009

**SUBJECT: Submissions to the federally appointed Rail Freight Service Review Panel**

Dear NCDC member:

By way of background, when our federal government tabled proposed amendments to the shipper protection provisions of the *Canada Transportation Act* (CTA) on May 30, 2007, it announced its commitment to begin a review of rail freight service within 30 days of the Bill receiving Royal Assent; this due to significant concerns expressed by railway shippers and other rail-based logistics stakeholders. This bill (Bill C-8) received Royal Assent on February 28, 2008 and, subsequently, the federal government got the promised review underway.

The review is being conducted in two phases. Phase I. consisted of quantitative and qualitative analytical work being carried out by independent consultants for Transport Canada. Draft recommendations and reports from this analytical stage should be made available to interested parties soon. The review's Phase II. is development of recommendations for the Minister by a "Panel of three eminent persons." Their recommendations are to be based on Phase I. results, any other relevant information, and consultations with stakeholders.

It is in connection with Phase II. we advise you, as NCDC members, the organization will be making a submission to this Rail Freight Service Review Panel. All such submissions are required by February 26, 2010, latest. NCDC's submission, along with others, will be taken into account by the Rail Freight Service Review Panel in their preparation of a draft report with recommendations, due by May 31, 2010. Further for your reference, Phase II., and the entire review, culminates in a final report with recommendations prepared and submitted by the Rail Freight Service Review Panel to the Minister by August 31, 2010.

As an NCDC member we invite your suggestions/comments, by February 1, 2010 latest, that we may consider them in constructing NCDC's written submission to the panel. To further expedite, please email them to: [mckolebaba@wispernet.ca](mailto:mckolebaba@wispernet.ca) and cc: [aldridge@nwcorridor.com](mailto:aldridge@nwcorridor.com)

This is not intended as precluding your organization from making its own submission to the Rail Freight Service Review Panel. In either respect, further information to guide you can be found online by using the following link: [www.tc.gc.ca/policy/acg/rfs-review-examen-sfm/hw-eng.htm](http://www.tc.gc.ca/policy/acg/rfs-review-examen-sfm/hw-eng.htm)

Yours truly,

Carolyn Kolebaba  
Chair, NCDC

