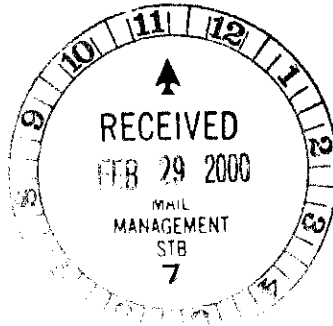


FINORA CANADA LTD.

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February 21, 2000

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
Attn: STB Ex Parte # 582
1925 K Street N.W.
Washington D.C.
20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of the Secretary

FEB 29 2000

Part of
Public Record

Dear Sir:

RE: Issues to be discussed on March 8, 2000 in Ex Parte 582 CN-BNSF Combination

Finora Canada Ltd. is a major user of rail service in Canada and the U.S. We are involved in the movement of grain and related products in both an East/West and North/South pattern.

We encourage the STB to focus on the benefits to shippers of the proposed merger, not the downstream effects. The CN-BNSF merger should be considered based on its merits as should any proposed merger.

Our concern is service. The timing of the proposed CN-BNSF combination is not the main issue for our company. The recent mergers have failed for reasons, not related to timing. We feel the STB should focus on ensuring that any merger of the CN-BNSF will deliver service.

The process is in place to make a detailed evaluation of the proposed transaction and protect the public interest. The STB should fairly evaluate the CN-BNSF combination according to the process in place.

Yours truly,
Finora Canada Ltd.

Dan Burneski
President