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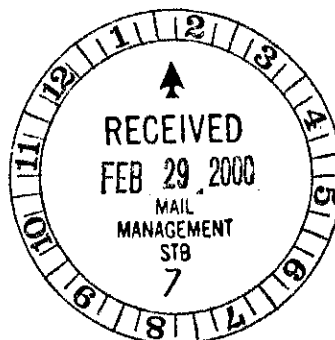


MILLAR WESTERN INDUSTRIES LTD.

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Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
Attn.: STB Ex Parte No. 582
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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February 24, 2000

Dear Sir:

The Chemical division of Millar Western Industries Ltd. is a producer of sodium sulphate and magnesium sulphate. We ship material by rail from coast to coast in Canada and into the United States. We are writing this letter in regards to the issues that will be discussed on March 8, 2000 in Ex Parte 582.

We encourage the Surface Transportation Board to focus on whether the proposed CN - BNSF combination is good for shippers. A combination between these or other carriers should be judged on its merits.

Our Foremost concern in the proposed CN - BNSF combination is the service we would receive. We believe that the Surface Transportation Board should focus on ensuring that the CN - BNSF combination, and any future combinations, will deliver service.

The Surface Transportation Board has a comprehensive process to evaluate railroad transactions and protect the public interest. It should fairly evaluate the CN - BNSF combination according to that process.

Sincerely,

Gil Heim
V.P. Chemicals

Palo, Saskatchewan, Canada S0K 2K0