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February 22, 2000

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

Dear Sir,

As a Lumber Wholesaler that purchases in excess of nine hundred train cars of lumber per year, Cushman Lumber is a major user of Rail Service in both the U.S. and Canada.

The purpose of this letter is to comment on the issues to be discussed on March 8th, 2000 in Ex Parte 582. We would ask and encourage the Surface Transportation Board to focus on whether the proposed CN-BNSF combination is good for shippers and users of rail service. The proposed combination should be judged on its merits and the impact it will have on those companies who rely on rail service daily to conduct their business.

Service and the public interest should be the focus of this evaluation, not the protection of other rail carriers from further competition from CN-BNSF.

Sincerely,

Henry Cushman