



LOCHER EVERS INTERNATIONAL
International Freight Forwarders

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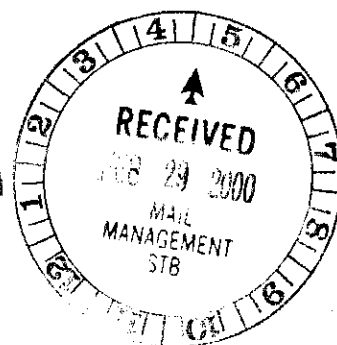
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"We Care"

February 21, 2000
New Westminster, B. C.

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
USA

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Office of the Secretary
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Dear Sir:

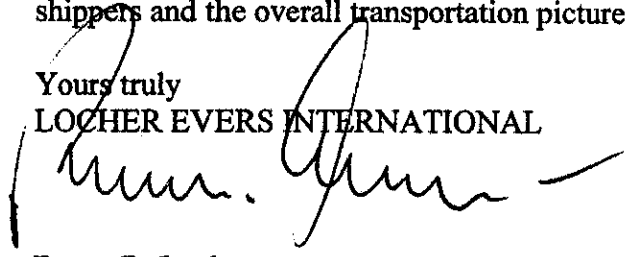
Locher Evers International is an international freight forwarder. In that capacity we are a substantial user of rail service in Canada as well in the USA. The purpose of this letter is to comment on the issues up for discussion on March 8, 2000 in Ex Parte 582.

We encourage the Surface Transportation Board to focus on the benefits the proposed CN-BNSF combination creates for shippers. The CN-BNSF combination must be judged on its merits. The two carriers perfectly supplement each other, very much unlike some previous combinations/mergers of other railway companies.

The primary importance for Locher Evers International is service. The CN-BNSF combination is well suited to improve on this, notably in the north south axis but also on the east west directly north and south of the 49th parallel.

We ask you to fairly evaluate the CN-BNSF combination, as it is in many respects more beneficial to the shipping public than its current operation as separate entities. The combination of CN-BNSF will, undoubtedly, receive objections from other carriers. These objections, however, carry more of a selfish motivation than looking out for shippers and the overall transportation picture in North America.

Yours truly
LOCHER EVERS INTERNATIONAL


Bruno R. Locher
President

BRL/lcr

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