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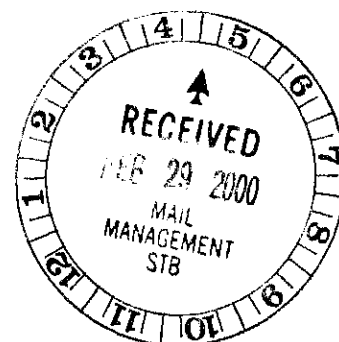


Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
 Surface Transportation Board
 Office of the Secretary
 Case Control Unit
 Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582
 1925 K Street, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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 Office of the Secretary

FEB 29 2000

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 Public Record



Dear Sir:

Lipton, a division of U L Canada Inc. is a Manufacturing company that is a major user of rail service in 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 encourage the Surface Transportation Board to focus on whether the proposed CN-BNSF combination, or any merger for that matter, is good for shippers. Accordingly, the Surface Transportation Board should focus on ensuring that CN-BNSF combination, and any other future mergers, will deliver service. The CN-BNSF combination should be judged on its merits.

We trust that 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,

Odette Tadros

Traffic & Customs Manager

Lipton, a division of U L Canada Inc.
 160 Bloor Street East, Suite 1500, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4W 3R2
 Telephone (416) 964-7255 Fax (416) 964-0294