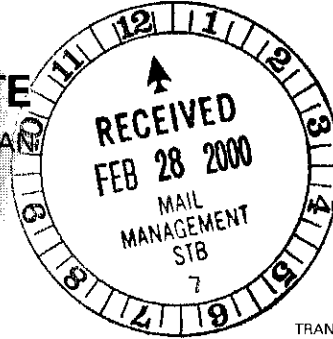
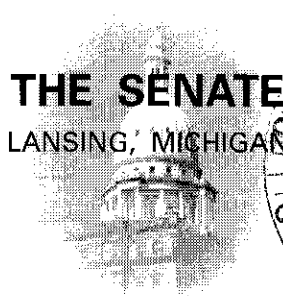


197100

5TH DISTRICT
SENATOR BURTON LELAND
ASSISTANT MINORITY WHIP
P.O. BOX 30036
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7536
(517) 373-0994
FAX: (517) 373-5981
E-MAIL: senbleland@senate.state.mi.us

HOME:
17254 BENTLER
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48219
(313) 537-7166

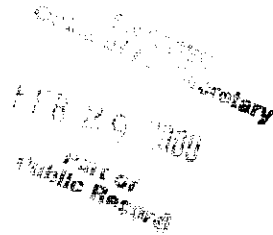
THE SENATE
LANSING, MICHIGAN



COMMITTEES:
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND
REGULATORY AFFAIRS (VC)
EDUCATION
FINANCIAL SERVICES
TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY
TRANSPORTATION AND TOURISM (VC)
REAPPORTIONMENT

February 24, 2000

Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20423-0001



Attn: STB Ex Parte #582

Re: Public Views on Major Rail Considerations

Dear Secretary Williams:

The intent of this correspondence is to express my support for a fair and timely process that will ensure the CN/BNSF combination will be judged on its merits.

I believe it is important that the Surface Transportation Board and other interested parties gather all available information and evaluate the facts surrounding this transaction in order to arrive at an informed decision. Therefore, I would like to recommend that the Board continue to move the process forward while evaluating all pertinent information. Following this procedure should help to ensure that when a decision is made, it will be in the best interest of the State of Michigan.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Burton Leland".

BURTON LELAND
State Senator

BL/kp