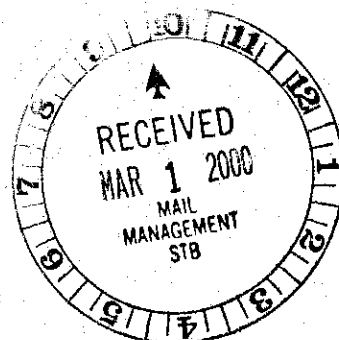


197429

Bethel Grain Company L.L.C.300 South Commercial Street
Benton, Illinois 62812

Phone (618) 439-7000 • Fax (618) 439-7200



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

Re: Canadian National Railway Company,
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation-
Common Control (STB Finance Docket No. 33842)

MAR 01 2000
Part of
Public Record

Dear Mr. Williams,

I am writing to request that the Surface Transportation Board provide a fair hearing as quickly as possible for the merger of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BN) and the Canadian National Railway (CN). Our plant is located in Benton, IL on the CN. This currently limits our ability to utilize one carrier moves. Extending the reach of the CN would improve efficiency and lower rates for our company versus using two railroads.

Bethel Grain Company, LLC produces corn products for cereals, snacks, and the USDA food programs. We are currently expanding our business west and would utilize the BN in those shipments.

I have been negotiating and handling freight issues for various companies over the past 10 years, including ADM, ConAgra and now Bethel Grain.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments. I can be reached at (618) 439-7000.

Sincerely,

Rodney Perry
Rodney Perry

(TUE) 2.29.00 15:34/ST.15:33/NO.4800000903 P 3

FROM ICRR CHGO MARKETING