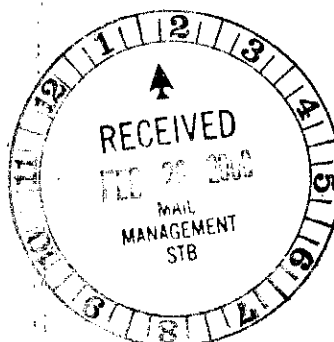


02/17/00

14:32

NO. 904

D01

APPS
CARTAGE6495 Van Deemter Court
Mississauga, ON L5T 1S1Tel.: (905) 564-6669
Fax: (905) 564-6944
Toll-Free 1-800-665-2533

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:

Apps Cartage is a trucking 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. The CN-BNSF combination should be judged on its merits.

Service, not timing, of the proposed CN-BNSF combination is the central issue for our company. Recent mergers have because of poor execution not because this is a bad time for mergers in the rail industry. Accordingly, the Surface Transportation Board should focus on ensuring that CN-BNSF combination, and any other future mergers, will deliver service.

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.

We do wonder whether the other railroads opposition to the use of the Surface Transportation Board process is an effort to insulate themselves from competition rather than as a protection for shippers.

Sincerely,

Robert M. McDonald

ENTERED
Office of the Secretary

FEB 29 2000

Part of
Public Record