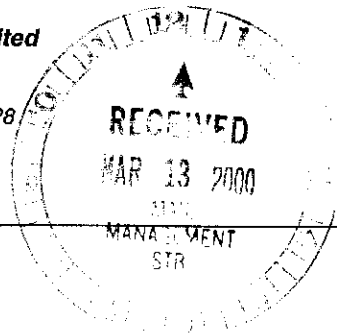


INLAND

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Inland Cement Limited
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Phone (780) 420-2500
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February 29, 2000

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

ENTERED
Office of the Secretary
MAR 15 2000
Part of
Public Record

Dear Sir:

Inland Cement Limited is a Western Canadian cement producer that is a major user of rail service. We annually move approximately 250,000 tonnes of material across the prairies and into the U.S.

This letter is written in support of a review of the proposed CN-BNSF merger based on merits of the proposal as they relate to service, costs and efficiency in product movement.

We also strongly urge that the review occur in a timely manner. The uncertainty of waiting for a decision creates a paralysis that is ultimately harmful to all shippers.

The Surface Transportation Board has, in the past, demonstrated an effective process in the review of similar proposals and we are confident that a fair and expedient hearing will serve the public interest well.

Thank-you.

Sincerely,

John P. Moquin

Manager - Distribution & Customer Services