



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

Transportation
and
Marketing

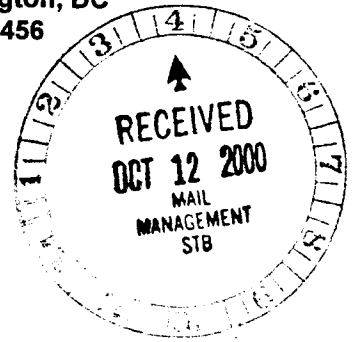
P.O. Box 96456
Washington, DC
20090-6456

OCT 5 2000

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Office of the Secretary

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Public Record



Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Office of the Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit, Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 634
1925 K Street, NW.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Williams:

Please accept this letter as the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) intent to participate in the Surface Transportation Board's Ex Parte No. 634: Consolidated Financial Reporting by Commonly Controlled Railroads. USDA is concerned that consolidated financial reporting will adversely affect the ability of commonly held short line railroads to serve rural areas.

On behalf of USDA, please add the following name to the service list for this proceeding as a party of record: Aggie J. Thompson, Acting Deputy Administrator, Transportation and Marketing, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 96456, Room 4006-South Building, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

Sincerely,

Aggie J. Thompson
Acting Deputy Administrator
Transportation and Marketing



The Agricultural Marketing Service
is an agency of the
United States Department of Agriculture