

August 1, 2002

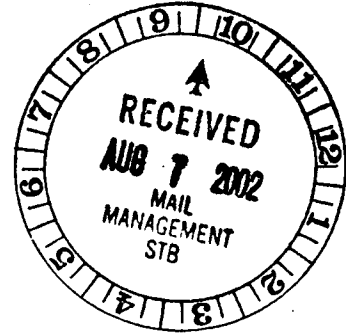
VIA UPS

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

AUG 06 2002

Part of
Public Record



Re: Finance Docket No. 34239, St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad Company – Lease and Operation Exemption – Rail Lines of Fraser N.H. LLC

Dear Secretary Williams:

On behalf of Fraser N.H. LLC ("Fraser N.H.") and Fraser Papers Inc. ("Fraser Papers"), I am writing in support of the Petition for Exemption (and the request for expedited consideration set forth therein) that was filed in the above-captioned proceeding on August 1, 2002 by the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad Company ("SLR").

Fraser N.H. recently acquired the rail lines formerly owned by Berlin Mills Railway, Inc. that provide rail access to Fraser's pulp and paper mills in Berlin and Gorham, New Hampshire. See Finance Docket No. 34222, Fraser N.H. LLC – Acquisition Exemption – Rail Lines of Berlin Mills Railway, Inc. (STB served July 26, 2002). In its recently filed petition, SLR seeks an exemption in order to continue to lease and operate those rail lines under the terms of a new Lease Agreement entered into by and between SLR, Fraser N.H. and Fraser Papers.

Fraser N.H. and Fraser Papers support the Petition for Exemption and the request for expedited consideration set forth therein. The parties to the Lease Agreement want to conduct their commercial relationship under the terms and conditions of the Lease Agreement, which does not become effective until it has been approved or exempted from approval by the Board.

I have enclosed ten copies of this letter with the original for filing with the Board. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,


John P. Borgwardt
General Counsel, Fraser Papers Inc.

cc: Edward J. Fishman
Counsel for St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad Company