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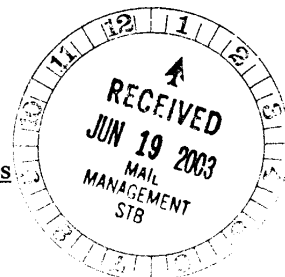
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June 19, 2003

**American
Chemistry
Council** *Good Chemistry
Makes It Possible*

Honorable Roger Nober
Chairman, Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

208/85



Re: STB Ex Parte No. 646 – Rail Rate Challenges in Small Cases

Dear Chairman Nober:

I am writing on behalf of the American Chemistry Council and the other shipper groups that participated in the Surface Transportation Board's April 22 public hearing in Ex Parte No. 646. During that hearing, you invited interested parties to submit additional written comments for the record during the following 60 days.

The participating shipper groups reviewed the written comments and also met to discuss what we had heard at the public hearing. We concluded that it would be most useful to provide the Board with a single set of recommendations regarding small rate case procedures. To that end, we outlined our recommendations and are about to review the draft of a joint filing in this docket.

Monday, June 23, will be the 60th day after the hearing. Unfortunately our necessary review and clearance process will not be completed by then. Therefore, I request your permission for an extension of approximately two weeks. Although I cannot guarantee that all shipper groups will ultimately sign onto our joint filing, I am authorized to state that they concur in this request for an extension.

Because the June 23 date is near, I am sending copies of this letter to all parties who filed notices of intent to participate and submitted written comments in this docket. In addition, today I am notifying the parties that are not involved in the prospective joint filing by (1) faxing a copy of this letter and (2) advising them by telephone.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at 703-741-5172.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Schick

Thomas E. Schick
Distribution Counsel

cc: All parties of record



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