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**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

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Office of Proceedings

NOV 14 2003

SECTION 5A APPLICATION NO. 46 (Sub No. 20)

FILED

SOUTHERN MOTOR CARRIERS RATE CONFERENCE, INC.

**PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME FOR RATE BUREAUS TO RESPOND TO
PETITION OF SOUTHERN MOTOR CARRIERS RATE CONFERENCE, INC. TO REOPEN
AND RECONSIDER**



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Service Association, Inc. and Rocky
Mountain Tariff Bureau, Inc.

November 14, 2003

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

SECTION 5A APPLICATION NO. 46 (Sub No. 20)

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Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 1104.7, EC-MAC Motor Carrier Service Assn., Inc. and Rocky Mountain Tariff Bureau, Inc. ("Rate Bureaus") hereby request an extension of time to reply to the November 5, 2003 "Petition of Southern Motor Carriers Rate Conference, Inc. to Reopen and Reconsider the Proceeding on the Present Record, or Alternatively, for a Further Hearing and the Setting of a Procedural Order for the Submission of Additional Evidence" ("SMC Petition"). Replies to the SMC Petition are due, under the Board's rules, within 20 days of its filing, or by November 25, 2003. Rate Bureaus request an extension that would provide them with an additional 20 days, or until December 15, 2003 to reply.

In support of this request, Rate Bureaus state that a key official of the Rocky Mountain Tariff Bureau, Inc., who will be involved in the preparation of the Rate Bureaus' reply, will be traveling outside of the United States and largely unavailable for an entire week beginning November 17, 2003. Further, undersigned counsel already has numerous other commitments during the next several weeks, including several filings due in other STB proceedings and before other agencies, as well as business commitments that will require him to be away from his office for several days next week. The press of this other business, coupled with the absence of an

official of one of the Rate Bureaus, would make it very difficult for counsel to prepare and file a reply by November 25.

SMC should not be prejudiced by the brief delay requested here. Its Petition is grounded largely on Congressional enactment of an amendment over eight months ago, in February 2003, that removed a statutory prohibition on the Board's ability to grant the relief SMC seeks -- the expansion of its antitrust immunity. However, SMC did not pursue the relief it now requests until November. The question of expanded immunity from the antitrust laws is, moreover, of far-reaching importance and deserves careful consideration. Further, SMC appropriately acknowledges in its Petition that the Board may need to set a procedural schedule to further consider the relief it requests. In these circumstances, allowing Rate Bureaus an additional twenty days to prepare a reply to SMC's Petition should not prejudice SMC's interests.

For all of these reasons, Rate Bureaus respectfully urge that this Petition be granted and that their reply to the Petition should be due on December 15, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



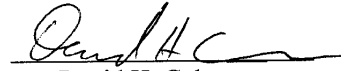
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this 14th day of November 2003 served a copy of the foregoing Petition for Extension of Time upon all parties to this proceeding by first class mail.


David H. Coburn