

July 9, 2004

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JUL - 9 2004

Part of
Public Record



RE: STB Ex Parte 646, *Rail Rate Challenges in Small Cases*

211530

Dear Secretary Williams:

Pursuant to the Board's Notice of Public Hearing served on June 29, 2004 in the above-referenced docket, the following twenty-five parties ("Interested Parties") hereby notify the Board of their intent to participate in the public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, July 21, 2004.

American Chemistry Council
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Soybean Association
Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee
The Fertilizer Institute
Idaho Barley Commission
Idaho Wheat Commission
Kansas Wheat Commission
Montana Wheat & Barley Committee
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Grain and Feed Association
National Grain Sorghum Producers
National Industrial Transportation League
North Dakota Grain Dealers Association
North Dakota Public Service Commission
North Dakota Wheat Commission
South Dakota Wheat Commission
Washington Barley Commission
Washington Wheat Commission
Alliance for Rail Competition
Consumers United for Rail Equity

These Interested Parties respectfully request 45 minutes to present their oral testimony at the hearing, or the total amount of time granted to the Class I rail carriers and their national association, whichever is greater. Nicholas J. DiMichael will present testimony on behalf of these Interested Parties.

Nick.DiMichael@ThompsonHine.com Phone 202.263.4103 Fax 202.331.8330

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nicholas J. DiMichael". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nicholas" and last name "DiMichael" clearly legible.

Nicholas J. DiMichael
Representative for Interested Parties