

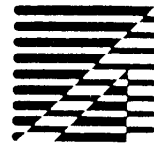
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213211

February 4, 2005



**American
Fluorescent
Corporation**

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**Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001**

Reference STB Ex Parte No. 656

Dear Mr. Williams:

Our company is in the lighting manufacturing business, what's left of it, and one of our largest costs is freight.

We understand the Surface Transportation Board is evaluating the appropriateness of extending continued antitrust exemption for the National Classification Committee. We urge you to deny the continuance of this collective agreement.

We believe it inappropriate to continue the collective agreement activity of the National Classification Committee in today's regulatory economy. Freight costs should only be determined in the open market, as our products are, with agreements/contracts determined between individual shippers and truckers.

If there is some overriding reason why the NCC should continue, then it should be reorganized with its makeup 50% shippers and 50% truckers.

Sincerely,

**Phillip R. Alexander
Director/Sales**

