

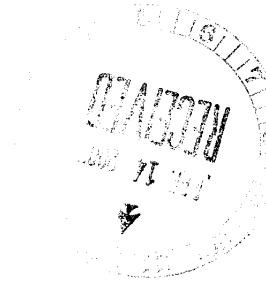
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February 10, 2005

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

FEB 14 2005



Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary Part of
Surface Transportation Board Public Record
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: STB Ex Parte No. 656

Dear Mr. Williams:

Our company is in the lighting manufacturing business. One of our largest costs is for 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 the collective agreement.

We believe it inappropriate to continue the collective agreement activity of the National Classification Committee in today's deregulated economy. Freight costs should only be determined in the open market 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.

Very truly yours,

Howard Schnall
Director of Customer Support

cc: American Lighting Assoc.

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