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February 14, 2005

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

RE: STB Ex Parte No. 656

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Dear Mr. Williams,

My company, Besa Lighting Co., Inc., produces lighting fixtures. We are concerned about escalating freight costs since freight is one of our largest costs in operating our business.

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 that is 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 National Classification Committee should continue, then, to be more balanced, it should be reorganized in such a way that it's makeup consists of 50% shippers and 50% truckers.

Sincerely
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Cash".

Richard E. Cash
Vice President
Besa Lighting Co., Inc.