

NSL

ARCHITECTURAL AND DECORATIVE LIGHTING

213350

February 4, 2005



Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
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 this
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.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Cook
President
National Specialty Lighting

Office of Proceedings

FEB 18 2005

For