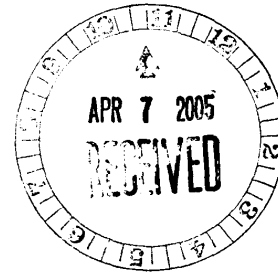




**ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS**

Law Department
Louis P. Warchot
Senior Vice President – Law
and General Counsel



213706

April 7, 2005

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

APR - 7 2005

Part of
Public Record

Re: STB Ex Parte No. 575, Review of Rail Access and Competitive Issues

Dear Mr. Williams:

On March 21, 2005, the Western Coal Traffic League ("WCTL") filed in the above proceeding a Renewed Petition of the Western Coal Traffic League for Rulemaking to Eliminate Unreasonable "Paper Barriers" to Interchange ("Petition"). Pursuant to STB rules (49 CFR § 1104.13(a)), replies to the Petition are due April 11, 2005.

The Association of American Railroads ("AAR") and the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association ("ASLRRA") request a 20-day extension of time to file their respective replies to this Petition. The AAR and the ASLRRA each intend to respond to the Petition because the issues raised and any action that the Board may take in response directly affect the activities of the members of the AAR and the ASLRRA. The extension is requested to allow the AAR and the ASLRRA the opportunity to adequately address the issues within their respective organizations and prepare appropriate responses.

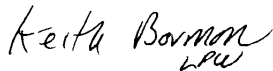
The AAR and the ASLRRA submit that the additional time requested will neither prejudice any interested party nor unduly protract any action that may be taken regarding the Petition. Also, counsel for the AAR and the ASLRRA have consulted with counsel for WCTL and WCTL counsel has stated that they do not object to the extension.

April 7, 2005
Page 2

Accordingly, the AAR and the ASLRRRA request that the Board extend the time for filing replies to the Petition for 20 days to May 2, 2005, and that the Board take no action on the Petition pending the receipt of replies thereto. Because the current due date for filing replies is April 11, 2005, the AAR and ASLRRRA also ask that this request for extension be given expedited handling by the Board.

Copies of this request have been served by hand delivery to counsel for WCTL and by first-class mail to parties of record in STB Ex Parte No. 575.

Respectfully Submitted,



Keith Borman
Attorney for
American Short Line Regional
Railroad Association
50 F Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001



Louis P. Warchot
Dennis Starks
Attorneys for
Association of American Railroads
50 F Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001