



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

General Counsel

**400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590**

April 14, 2005

Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Suite 700
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Rail Rate Challenges Under the Stand-Alone Cost Methodology
Ex Parte No. 657

Dear Secretary Williams:

Pursuant to the Notice in the above-referenced docket, the United States Department of Transportation hereby gives notice of its intent to participate in this proceeding. The undersigned will appear on behalf of the Department, and requests a total of five minutes' time during the course of the hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Samuel Smith', written over a horizontal line.

PAUL SAMUEL SMITH
Senior Trial Attorney
(202) 366-9280