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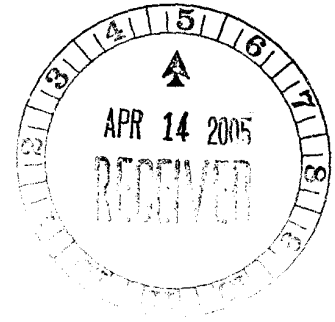
April 14, 2005

Via HAND DELIVERY

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

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Re: **Rail Rate Challenges Under The Stand-Alone Cost Methodology,
STB Ex Parte No. 657**

Dear Secretary Williams:

In a Notice served on March 14, 2005, the Board indicated that it will hold a hearing to consider rail rate challenges under the SAC methodology. The hearing is scheduled to take place on April 26, 2005. The Board's March 14, 2005 Notice requests that persons wishing to participate in the hearing notify the Board by April 15, 2005.

BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") hereby notifies the Board that it intends to participate in the April 26, 2005 hearing. Three persons will appear on behalf of BNSF: (1) John P. Lanigan, BNSF's Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer; (2) Joseph P. Kalt, Ford Foundation Professor of International Political Economy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; and (3) Samuel M. Sipe, Jr., Steptoe & Johnson, LLP, outside counsel for BNSF. BNSF requests 30 minutes to present its comments.

Please date stamp the extra copy of this letter and return it with our messenger. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. LaRocca

cc: Raymond A. Atkins