



Before The
Surface Transportation Board

STB Ex Parte No. 656
Motor Carrier Bureaus – Periodic Review Proceeding

Reply Comments
Of
The American Lighting Association

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Dated 20 April 2005

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Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
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Reference STB ExParte No. 656

Dear Mr. Williams:

After reviewing the reply of the National Motor Freight Traffic Association and the National Classification Committee, we continue to believe it is inappropriate for the federal government to provide anti-trust immunity to any segment of business in today's deregulated economy.

It is most important to note the U.S. Department of Transportation concurs with our position. Their letter of 1 April concluded, *"A policy favoring protection from the laws that preserve competition does not serve the public interest nearly as well as competition itself."* Further, *"the Board should disapprove the rate setting and classification agreements at issue."*

Every aspect of the lighting business, other than trucking costs, is conducted in the open market place. We see no reason why the trucking industry needs a special advantage or protection.

Other aspects of the American economy have been deregulated for years including airlines and ocean shipping. It is time the STB ended the privilege for trucking.

Respectfully submitted



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