



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

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Washington, D.C. 20250-0264

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Public Record

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Office of the Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit, Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 658
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



Dear Mr. Williams:

Please accept this letter as the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) intent to participate in the Surface Transportation Board's Ex Parte No. 658: The 25th Anniversary of the Staggers Rail Act of 1980—A Review and Look Ahead. Under Secretary Bill Hawks will submit written comments for USDA. USDA plans to discuss the following topics:

- Agricultural shippers depend on adequate, fairly-priced, and efficient rail service;
- Shippers and the rail industry have benefited from the Staggers Act;
- Agricultural shippers have concerns regarding several issues; and
- Deregulation legislation, while beneficial in the long run, cannot be the vehicle to address all shippers' issues with rail service.

On behalf of USDA, please add the following name to the service list for this proceeding as a party of record: Barbara C. Robinson, Deputy Administrator, Transportation and Marketing, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 1098-South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-0264.

Sincerely,

Barbara C. Robinson
Deputy Administrator
Transportation and Marketing Programs