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214840

October 7, 2005



BY HAND

Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: STB Ex Parte No. 658
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
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Part of
Public Record

Re: STB Ex Parte No. 658, Notice of Intent to Participate

Dear Secretary Williams:

Weiner Brodsky Sidman Kider PC ("WBSK"), a law firm that represents approximately 75 short line railroads, files this Notice of Intent to Participate in the October 19, 2005, public hearing to be held by the Surface Transportation Board (the "Board") to examine the impact, effectiveness and future of the Staggers Rail Act of 1980. Mark H. Sidman will appear on behalf of WBSK. Mr. Sidman requests 10 minutes to speak. He will address the following topic: The impact of the Staggers Act on small railroad spin-off transactions, and how the relationship between Class I railroads and short lines will affect the public interest in the next round of railroad consolidations.

Enclosed are ten copies of this letter for Board distribution.

Very truly yours,

Rose-Michele Nardi