

215-346

December 13, 2005

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

Re: Formal Comment on Petition for Declaratory Order
National Solid Waste Management Association, et al
FD-34776

Dear Secretary Williams:

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) respectfully requests the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to schedule the National Solid Waste Management Association's, (NSWMA) declaratory ruling petition for full process review and consideration. CTDEP believes that local and state oversight of solid waste transfer operations, including at rail facilities, is critically important to protection of public health and the environment. In Connecticut, we have seen first hand an increasing number of proposals to circumvent the CTDEP permitting process for solid waste rail transfer facilities under the guise of preemption. This is a matter of significant concern for us, and one that the STB can and should reconcile through a comprehensive evaluation by the granting the NSWMA petition for declaratory ruling.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Isner
Director
Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division
Bureau of Waste Management

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