



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

STOP 0264 - Room 1098-S
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, D.C. 20250-0264

March 8, 2006

David Konschnik
Director, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, SW.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Dear Mr. Konschnik:

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) requests that the Surface Transportation Board grant it leave to file comments regarding Ex Parte No. 575, Review of Rail Access and Competition Issues, by close of business Friday, March 10, 2006. The comments are due by close of business Wednesday, March 08, 2006. USDA is still reviewing its comments. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara C. Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Barbara C. Robinson
Deputy Administrator
Transportation and Marketing Programs
Agricultural Marketing Service