



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

General Counsel

**400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590**

March 14, 2006

Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Suite 700
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Major Issues in Rail Rate Cases
Ex Parte No. 657 (Sub-No. 1)

Dear Secretary Williams:

Pursuant to the Notice in the above-referenced docket served February 27, 2006 (71 Fed. Reg. 11015 (March 3, 2006)), the United States Department of Transportation hereby gives notice of its intent to participate in this proceeding as a Party of Record. I request that all hard copy notices, decisions, and filings should be served on the undersigned at the address below.

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL SAMUEL SMITH

U.S. Department of Transportation
4003 Seventh Street, S.W. C-30
Washington, D.C. 20590

(202) 366-9280