

216929

LAW OFFICE
THOMAS F. MCFARLAND, P.C.
208 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET - SUITE 1890
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604-1112
TELEPHONE (312) 236-0204
FAX (312) 201-9695
mcfarland@aol.com

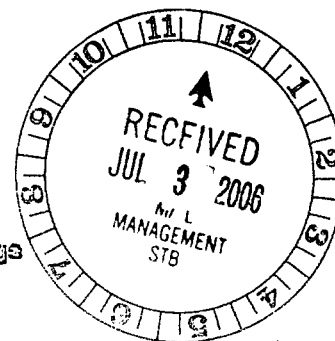
THOMAS F. MCFARLAND

June 26, 2006

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JUL 03 2006

Part of
Public Record



Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit, Suite 713
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Ex Parte No. 575, *Review of Rail Access and Competitive Issues*

Dear Mr. Williams:

In response to the Board's notice of public hearing in the above proceeding served June 2, 2006, this constitutes notice in behalf of Albany & Eastern Railroad Company (AERC), a Class III rail carrier, of its intent to participate in the public hearing to be held at the Board's office on July 27, 2006.

The speakers in behalf of AERC will be:

- (1) Mr. Michael R. Root, AERC's President. Mr. Root will address the adverse competitive effects of paper barriers.
- (2) Thomas F. McFarland, AERC's attorney. Mr. McFarland will address the Board's statutory authority to address preexisting paper barriers and the inadequacy of the Railroad Industry Agreement to deal with paper barriers.

AERC requests 20 minutes to present its position, composed of 10 minutes for each speaker.

Very truly yours,

Tom McFarland

Thomas F. McFarland
*Attorney for Albany & Eastern
Railroad Company*

TMcf:kl:wp8.0\1085\lrstb2

cc: Mr. Michael R. Root, *by e-mail*