



**American Short Line and
Regional Railroad Association**

The Voice of America's Independent Railroads

216999

July 6, 2006

Honorable Vernon Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Room 715
1925 K Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: STB Ex Parte No. 575: Review of Rail Access and Competition Issues – Renewed
petition of the Western Coal Traffic League

Dear Secretary Williams:

SUMMARY OF KEITH BORMAN TESTIMONY

Below is a summary of the testimony I intend to give at the above referenced hearing on
July 27, 2006:

There is no unified view among the 425 member railroads of the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association concerning paper barriers. A small number of our railroads have expressed dissatisfaction with how paper barriers have affected their operations, but it appears that the large majority of our members who operate under paper barrier provisions are not dissatisfied with their effect. The ASLRRA is a signatory to the Railroad Industry Agreement, and it has provided a useful mechanism to deal with complaints and requests for waivers. Deregulation of the rail industry has benefited short line railroads, and regulatory efforts to interfere with otherwise legal bilateral commercial agreements between railroads would be a step backwards with severe and disrupting short term and unforeseeable long term consequences.

Respectfully,

Keith T. Borman

Keith T. Borman
Vice President & General Counsel

cc: Richard F. Timmons