



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

STOP 0266 – Room 1207-S
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, D.C. 20250-0266

June 21, 2007

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Office of the Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit, Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 672
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) requests that the Surface Transportation Board grant it leave to file late this notice of intent to participate in the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) public hearing, Ex Parte No. 672: Rail Transportation of Resources Critical to the Nation's Energy Supply. The notice of intent to participate was required by June 19, 2007.

USDA also requests that the Board grant it leave to file written comments regarding Ex Parte No. 672 by close of business Thursday, July 12, 2007. The comments are due by close of business Thursday, July 5, 2007. USDA is preparing its comments and anticipates needing additional time for review. Under Secretary Bruce Knight will submit written comments for USDA and does not plan to speak at the hearing.

On behalf of USDA, please add the following name to the service list for this proceeding as a party of record: Barbara C. Robinson, Deputy Administrator, Transportation and Marketing Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 1098-South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-0264.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Blanton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bruce Blanton
Associate Deputy Administrator
Transportation and Marketing Programs