



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

Law Department

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June 26, 2007

Honorable Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20024

Re: STB Ex Parte No. 673 – BNSF Railway Company, et al. – Petition to
Institute a Rulemaking

Dear Secretary Williams:

On June 6, 2007, BNSF Railway Company, Canadian Railway Company, Canadian Pacific Railway Company, CSX Transportation, Inc., Norfolk Southern Railway Company, and Union Pacific Railroad Company (the "Coalition") petitioned the Surface Transportation Board to initiate a rulemaking to amend the Board's regulations at Section 1150.33, 1150.34, 1150.43, and 1150.44 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations to increase modestly the information required in a notice of exemption and overrule the "bright-line test" of Effingham Railroad Co. – Petition for Declaratory Order – Construction at Effingham, IL.

As the Coalition noted in their Petition, there is significant interest from a number of parties in the Board requiring sufficient information in a notice of exemption to allow a proper determination of whether the entity filing the notice is a rail carrier providing transportation. The Association of American Railroads ("AAR") shares this interest as reflected in the Comments filed by the AAR in Ex Parte No. 659, Public Participation in Class Exemption Proceedings, a copy of which was attached to the Coalition's Petition.

Accordingly, the AAR supports the above-referenced Petition of the Coalition and urges the Board to institute a rulemaking proceeding to address the concerns and issues set forth in the Petition.

Very truly yours,

Louis P. Warchot
Counsel for the Association of
American Railroads

Cc: Coalition members