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June 30, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

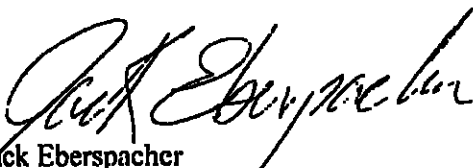
Dear Surface Transportation Board:

I am writing in response to your June 27, 2008 notice in the Federal Register of the July 22nd STB hearing on the "Common Carrier Obligation of Railroads- Transportation of Hazardous Materials, STB Ex Parte No. 677 (Sub-No. 1)". I would like to request the opportunity for Dan Weber, Vice President of Agronomy at Ceres Solutions, LLP and Chairman of the Board at the Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA), to testify at the hearing for 15 minutes on behalf of ARA.

The issue of the "common carrier" obligation is of great importance to ARA's members due to the large number of our members who ship and receive anhydrous ammonia fertilizer via the railroads. For this reason, it is essential to our association to be given the opportunity to participate in the dialogue with the STB regarding the "common carrier" obligation.

Mr. Weber's written testimony is enclosed, and ARA would like to submit it for the record. I look forward to hearing from you regarding our participation in the hearing.

Sincerely,


Jack Eberspacher
President and CEO

CC THOMAS BRUGMAN
ENCLOSURE