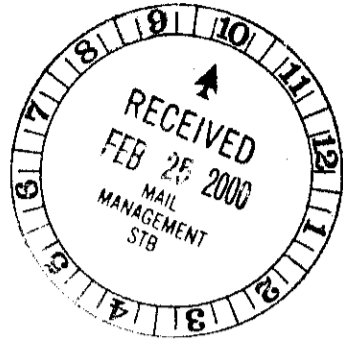


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Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
Office of the Secretary  
Case Control Unit  
Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



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February 24, 2000

Dear Sir:

Buchanan Lumber Sales maintains and coordinates all sales and shipping for seven lumber mills located in northwestern Ontario. Buchanan Lumber Sales utilizes markets throughout the United States and Canada and is a major user of rail service in both these countries. Buchanan Lumber Sales would like to be included in the commentary of issues to be addressed by the Surface Transportation Board on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2000 during the Ex Parte No. 582 hearing.

Buchanan Lumber Sales is committed to providing a continuous supply of lumber to its customers quickly and economically. To this end, Buchanan Lumber Sales relies on excellent rail service to continue this commitment. We encourage the Board to focus on whether the proposed CN-BNSF combination adequately addresses the needs and expectations of shippers, which ultimately represents the overall public interest. Buchanan Lumber Sales urges the Board to consider the CN-BNSF combination based on its merits, as it would any other matter placed before the Board.

As an international shipper of commodity and specialty products, Buchanan Lumber Sales' foremost concern with the CN-BNSF combination is service. Recent industry mergers have failed the shipping industry because of service deficiencies, not merger timing. Accordingly, Buchanan Lumber Sales would appreciate the Board's considerations to focus on ensuring that the CN-BNSF combination, as with any future mergers, will deliver the appropriate levels of service to the public.

Buchanan Lumber Sales recognizes that the Surface Transportation Board has a comprehensive process to evaluate railroad transactions and protect the public interest. Buchanan Lumber Sales requests that the Board fairly evaluate the CN-BNSF combination according to that process. Buchanan Lumber Sales encourages the Board to consider foremost the interests of rail shippers and customers and not allow other rail companies to utilize the Board process to benefit themselves.

Sincerely,

Hal Brindley



ENTERED  
Office of the Secretary

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