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Public Record

Cynthia T. Brown  
Chief, Section of Administration  
Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street S.W.  
Washington D.C. 20024

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RE: FD 34533 [ Sub-No. 1] Southwestern Railroad / BNSF Railway

Dear Ms. Brown

I Rojelio Lopez A Southwestern R.R. employee since Aug 3, 2007

And an active railroader since Aug 3, 2007 respectively request as a concerned party to the above transaction, that the Surface Transportation Board impose full labor protection in the above transaction. As a class 1 railroad is taking over from a class 3 operation, the same transaction occurred when the BNSF Railway took over operations from the Yellowstone Valley Railroad a leased BNSF property. Docket No. AB 991 [Sub-No. 1X]. At that time the STB imposed labor protection.

This was the Oregon Shortline Decision No. AB-36 [Sub-No. 2] Dated Feb. 23 1979.

We have some fears that they may try to structure this transaction in a way that these parties may avoid some or all of our Railway Labor Act protections. We have no access to a labor organization's legal team and ask only that we be treated fairly, as is also spelled out in the Oregon Shortline Decision, that unrepresented employees be treated the same as ones with representation.

The railroad industry has suffered job losses of 15,000 since June 2015. [Railway Age June 2016]  
And BNSF Railway has thousands of personnel on furlough. Our job protection rights are needed to help our co-workers some of whom have only a short time till retirement, and are facing a tough job market. I would like to thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Yours,

Rojelio Lopez

September, 14 2016

I certify that I have this day served copies of document upon all parties of record in this proceeding.

Respectfully

*Ripley Lopez*

