



Stone Consulting & Design, Inc.

May 11, 2006

Phillis Johnson-Ball
 Surface Transportation Board
 1925 K Street NW
 Washington, DC 20423

Attention: Finance Docket No. 34797

Dear Ms. Ball:

I am the Vice President Railroad Operations of Stone Consulting & Design, Inc. in Warren Pennsylvania. In responding to your letter dated April 7, 2006, in connection with New England Transrail's proposed rail transloading facility I would urge you to take into account and support the numerous benefits that this facility can have on the region's health and safety, congestion and economic and fiscal impacts by improving rail freight service into the Boston metropolitan area.

I have directly worked on the set up of over twenty railroads during the last thirty years. Of these I have been responsible for the actual ongoing operations of four of them. The rail industry is becoming more critical to our national transportation efficiency as diesel prices rise. The railroads have the ability of protecting our economy from stagnation due to increasingly expensive petroleum. As international experts are predicting crude costs at over \$100 per barrel, it will be even more important for the economy of New England to have quality rail alternatives. It is imperative that we open mindedly look toward rail options to solve logistical challenges.

New England has suffered from rail service deficiencies for over forty years. Increased rail service in the Boston metropolitan area will reduce environmental and economic burdens. Because of the high cost of land close to the Boston metropolitan area, there is a lack of well suited rail transloading facilities with sufficient capacity to serve the potential demand for rail freight service. NET's proposed facility will be one step to alleviate this shortage for rail freight service capacity. A well functioning national rail system needs adequate rail transloading facilities in all parts of the country.

We believe, based on our other experiences, that NET's proposed facility will have environmental and economic benefits for the Boston metropolitan area and the rest of southern New England, which we urge you to take into account in your review of this project.

Very truly yours,
Stone Consulting & Design, Inc.

Gary E. Landrio
 Vice President Rail Operations

GEL/fsc