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Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

232594

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 23, 2012
Part of
Public Record

July 23, 2012

Re: STB Docket No. EP 699, Assessment of Mediation and Arbitration Procedures

Dear Ms. Brown:

Pursuant to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPRM") served on March 28, 2012 and the Board's Decision served on June 28, 2012, the Tom O'Connor Group hereby notifies the Board of its intent to participate in the oral hearing scheduled for August 2, 2012 in the above-captioned proceeding.

Tom O'Connor, will appear on behalf of the Tom O'Connor Group presenting comments that support mediation as an alternative method of dispute resolution.

We request that the Board allocate five (5) minutes for our comments

Respectfully submitted,

Tom O'Connor

President

Tom O'Connor Group