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Transportation and  
Marketing Program

Transportation  
Services Division

Valerie Quinn  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423

1400 Independence  
Avenue SW  
Washington,  
DC 20250

Ms. Quinn,

Please accept this letter as the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) intent to participate in the public hearing for the Surface Transportation Board proceeding Ex Parte 665 (Sub-No. 1): Rail Transportation of Grain, Rate Regulation Review. Under Secretary Edward Avalos or Deputy Under Secretary Gary Woodward will present oral testimony on behalf of USDA. USDA respectfully requests to speak at 10:00 a.m. on June 10, 2015 for 10 minutes.

Key topics to be covered in the testimony will include:

- Challenges that grain and oilseed shippers face under the current appeals procedures and the need for a new rate appeals procedure.
- The importance of revenue adequacy as a component in rate appeals.
- Arbitration and mediation as alternatives to formal rate appeals processes.

Sincerely,

Bruce Blanton  
Director  
Transportation Services Division  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture