

February 11, 2005

Honorable Vernon Williams  
Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K. Street NW  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Williams:

NOVA Chemicals Inc. is writing you to express our support of Finance Docket No. 34662, Petition of CSX Transportation for Declaratory Order.

NOVA Chemicals is a large rail shipper of commodity plastics and petrochemicals including some of the materials covered by the District of Columbia ordinance titled "Terrorism Prevention in Hazardous Materials Transportation Emergency Act of 2005."

As a major rail shipper, we are reliant on a safe and efficient rail network to get our products to market. A key to a safe and efficient rail network is the federal regulatory scheme that provides all shippers with uniform rules under which we can conduct interstate commerce. NOVA Chemicals believes the DC Ordinance, at least insofar as it relates to rail shipments, is preempted by Section 10501 of the ICC Termination Act of 1995. We also believe enforcement of the DC Ordinance will set a precedent and invite other local justifications to enact similar measures that could greatly impact efficiency and cost of interstate commerce.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our views.

Peter H. Masterman  
Vice President, Logistics and Customer Service  
NOVA Chemicals Inc.