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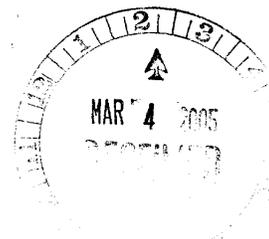
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Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Raymond A. Atkins
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

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Re: STB Ex Parte No. 657

Dear Mr. Atkins:

I write in response to the "Motion for Extension of Public Hearing Schedule" filed on February 28, 2005, by the Alliance for Rail Competition ("ARC") et al. in Ex Parte No. 657, Rail Rate Challenges Under the Stand-Alone Cost Methodology. I anticipate that I will participate in the public hearing in this matter on behalf of our clients CSX Transportation, Inc. and Norfolk Southern Railway Company, and I have no objection to the dates requested by ARC et al. for the filing of Notices of Intent to Participate (April 13, 2005) and for the submission of Written Testimony (April 18, 2005). However, I have a firm out-of-town commitment on Monday, April 25, 2005, the date suggested by ARC et al. for the rescheduled Hearing in this matter, and I therefore respectfully request that the hearing be scheduled for April 27, 2005, or at least another day during the week of April 25. Moreover, because a number of participants in the Hearing are likely to be coming to Washington from out-of-town, scheduling the Hearing for a day other than a Monday would permit such participants to avoid travelling on the weekend.

Thank you and the Board for considering this request, which I believe is fully consistent with footnote 2 to the Motion of ARC et al.

Sincerely,

G. Paul Moates

cc: Counsel for ARC et al (via first-class mail)
Samuel M. Sipe, Jr., Esq.
David L. Meyer, Esq.
Louis P. Warchot, Esq.