

January 12, 2006

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Document #34797, New England Transrail, LLC

Dear Secretary Williams:

As part of the review process for the above-mentioned project, Associated Industries of Massachusetts (A.I.M.) would like to provide the following comments.

Established in 1915, A.I.M. is the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan association of Massachusetts employers, representing over 7,600 businesses, including the largest businesses and employers in the state, to the smallest entrepreneurial businesses.

We are writing to express our support for New England Transrail's (NET) proposed transloading facility in Wilmington, Massachusetts. As you know, the NET facility would allow rail-to-truck and truck-to-rail transloading of a wide range of materials including sand, gravel, wood chips, plastic resins, food products, soda ash, construction and demolition debris and municipal solid waste.

Massachusetts badly needs such facilities to reduce our dependence on high-cost long-haul trucking. The Greater Boston metropolitan area is dramatically underserved by rail transportation relative to other major metropolitan areas. Better access to rail would lower the high transportation costs borne by our businesses, consumers and municipalities, reduce our high costs of highway maintenance and lessen the critical congestion of our roads.

The NET facility would have other benefits as well. It would revitalize an abandoned industrial site, creating jobs and increasing tax revenue. By reducing long-haul truck transportation, it would also contribute to a reduction of air emissions including particulates, hydrocarbons, and other pollutants.

The proposed site of the NET facility is ideal. It is surrounded by industrial properties, distant from homes and strategically located near two of the Commonwealth's most important highways, Interstates 93 and 95, only eleven miles from Boston.

We urge the Surface Transportation Board to expedite its review and approval of this beneficial project.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Rio

Robert A. Rio, Esq
Vice President
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RAR:gm

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that on this 18 day of January, 2006, I served a copy of the foregoing comments of Associated Industries of Massachusetts in support of New England Transrail's Petition for Exemption by causing a copy to be delivered by first class mail, postage prepaid, to:

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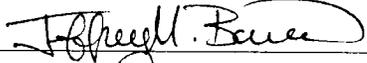
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