

BAKER BOTTS LLP

THE WARNER
1299 PENNSYLVANIA AVE., NW
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20004-2400

TEL +1 202.639.7700
FAX +1 202.639.7890
www.bakerbotts.com

215057
AUSTIN
DALLAS
DUBAI
HONG KONG
HOUSTON
LONDON
MOSCOW
NEW YORK
RIYADH
WASHINGTON

January 26, 2006

Via Hand Delivery

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Comments Supporting Petition for Exemption filed
by New England Transrail, LLC
FD-34797

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JAN 26 2006

Part of
Public Record

Jeffrey Bauer
TEL +1 (202) 639-7721
FAX +1 (202) 585-4076
jeffrey.bauer@bakerbotts.com



Dear Secretary Williams:

Enclosed for filing are an original and ten (10) copies of the comments of the Health Education and Learning Program (H.E.L.P.) for Black Males Health, University of Massachusetts, Boston, in support of the Petition for Exemption filed by New England Transrail, LLC, Finance Docket Number 34797. Please time-stamp the extra copy and return it to our messenger.

We are hereby requesting that the following individual be added to the official service list:

Mr. Nyjah Wyche, Project Coordinator
Health Education and Learning Program for Black Males Health
University of Massachusetts, Boston
100 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125-3393

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey M. Bauer".

Jeffrey M. Bauer



UNIVERSITY of
MASSACHUSETTS
BOSTON
100 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125-3393

H.E.L.P. for Black Males Health
Africana Studies Department
617.287.7138
Fax: 617.287.6799

January 23, 2006

Vernon Williams, Secretary
United States Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C.20423

Re: New England Transrail, LLC

Dear Secretary Williams,

The Health Education and Learning Program (H.E.L.P.) for Black Males Health is a project designed to initiate dialogue and action aimed at increasing awareness and effecting positive attitude changes toward the health care needs of Black males in our society. H.E.L.P. strongly supports the New England Transrail, LLC (NET) facility proposed project for Wilmington, Massachusetts to increase the freight rail transportation into New England and recommend and urge your immediate approval

The H.E.L.P. for Black Males Health organization is very concerned about how air pollution, traffic congestion and vehicle accidents impact the health of Black Males, our children, families and our communities. We feel that the proposed New England Transrail, LLC's proposed project for Wilmington, Massachusetts is beneficial for the general public and will positively impact the people adversely affected by pollutants, congested traffic problems and cost.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts' landfill capacity is diminishing and there is an overall concern about the growing reliance on long haul, truck transporting in and around Massachusetts and the nation. This reliance has placed an increasing burden on our air quality, the condition of our state and national roads and the effectiveness of our road safety. In addition, long-haul truck transporting has increased traffic congestion, government repair and maintenance costs. It is imperative that we take a hard look at what we can do to significantly reduce our dependency on foreign fuel sources and begin to consider NET's proposal for the use of rail transportation as progressive and more beneficial to our well-being's.

NET is a minority owned entity trying to develop a project in an industry that has shamefully lacked African-American ownership. This project is also in a community that has almost no African-American representation and NET's commitment to minority hiring will redress that imbalance.

In addition to the social goal furthered by NET's presence and project, the environmental and economic benefits of rail transportation over long-haul freight trucking are well documented. Pollution from long haul freight trucks has a disproportionately large impact on minority communities, which are the locations of some of the most congested portions on the interstate road system serving New England and coming from the Mid-Atlantic States.

H.E.L.P. very strongly urges you to give this beneficial project immediate approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nyjah Wyche', is written over a horizontal line.

Nyjah Wyche
Project Coordinator
HELP for Black Males Health

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that on this 26 day of January, 2006, I served a copy of the foregoing comments of Health Education and Learning Program (H.E.L.P.) for Black Males Health, University of Massachusetts, Boston, in support of New England Transrail's Petition for Exemption by causing a copy to be delivered by first class mail, postage prepaid, to:

James R Miceli
Commonwealth Of Massachusetts
Room 167, State House
Boston, MA 02133-1054

Patrick John Cane
Mercer County Improvement Authority
640 S Broad St
Trenton, NJ 08650

Stephen M. Richmond
Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.
45 William Street, Suite 120
Wellsley, MA 02481

Susan P. Ruch
Massachusetts Department Of
Environmental Protection Northeast Regional Office
205B Lowell Street
Wilmington, MA 01887

Daniel R. Deutsch
Deutsch Williams Brooks Derensis & Holland, P.C.
99 Summer Street
Boston, MA 02110-1235

Arthur G. Mansilia
United Tool & Die Co., Inc.
Eames Street
Wilmington, MA 01887

M. Barbara Sullivan
27 Gunderson Road
Wilmington, MA 01887-1546

Robert A. Rio
Associated Industries of Massachusetts
P.O. Box 763
Boston, MA 02117-0763

Deborah L. Duggan
11 Hillcrest Street
Wilmington, MA 01887

Thomas E. Dew
Berry Moorman
900 Victors Way - Suite 300
Ann Arbor, MI 48108-2705

Nyjah Wyche, Project Coordinator
Health Education and Learning Program for Black Males Health
University of Massachusetts, Boston
100 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125-3393

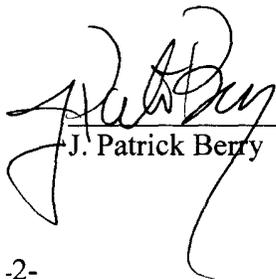
P. Christopher Podgurski
Podgurski Corp.
8 Springfield Ave.
Canton, MA 02021-3205

Frank S. DeMasi
26 MacArthur Road
Wellesley, MA 02482

Hon. John W. Carrington, Sr.
The M.W. Grand Master of
The Most Worshipful Hiram Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M., Inc.
Bay State Grand Chapter
Youth Development Center
98 Talbot Avenue
Dorchester, MA 02124

Senator Bill Owens (Ret.)
115 Hazelton Street
Mattapan, MA 02121

Arthur Williams, Chairman
Structural Committee
National Black Agenda Convention, Inc.
P.O. Box 366211
Boston, MA 02136-9998


J. Patrick Berry