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January 26, 2006

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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



Dear Secretary Williams:

Enclosed for filing are an original and ten (10) copies of the comments of Senator Bill Owens 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:

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

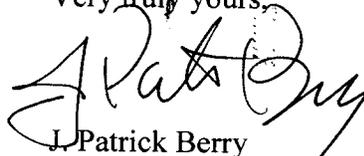
Thank you in advance for your consideration.

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JAN 26 2006

Part of
Public Record

Very truly yours,


J. Patrick Berry

SENATOR BILL OWENS (Ret.)

115 Hazelton Street
Mattapan, Ma 02121

January 23, 2006

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

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JAN 26 2006

Re: New England Transrail, LLC

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Dear Chairman Williams:

This letter is to express my strong support for the New England Transrail, (NET) facility proposed transload operation in Wilmington, Massachusetts. I am the former Senator (retired) for the Second Suffolk Senatorial District and I represented a large part of Boston, Massachusetts and the majority of the community of color.

New England Transrail, LLC's efforts to increase rail transportation into New England Should be strongly supported in an expeditious manner by the Surface Transportation Board. As a minority-owned entity, NET represents an excellent opportunity to further African-American interests in an industry in which they have been severely underrepresented.

Furthermore, the environmental benefits of rail transportation over long-haul freight trucking is well documented. Pollution impacts from long-haul freight trucks fall disproportionately on minority communities which are the locations of some of the most congested portions on the interstate road system serving New England. Projects such as NET's which will divert trucks from these congested roadways onto our rail system should be encouraged.

I am a non-smoker who has asthma and other pollutant effected health conditions. The people and community who I represented and continue to deal with have a significantly higher rate of diseases including, asthma, lung and other cancer, high blood pressure, stroke and heart disease. The areas of our community that have a higher exposure to diesel fuel pollutants, truck noises, etc. are the same areas that have excessively higher rates of the ailments listed above and more.

It is Imperative to me that we improve our environment. We can not afford to continue to have large trucks pollute our environment because of the use of lethal fossil fuels. Furthermore, with the high price of gasoline, the most cost saving device that I can think of to transport contaminants and solid waste would be rail transportation and we will reduce the exposure of our population to pollutants from diesel.

Not only will NET's project help our community, but it will improve air quality, lower road congestion and government repair and maintenance costs and increase highway safety. This will also contribute to the reduction of America's dependence on foreign oil.

Facilities like the New England Transrail proposed transload operation in Wilmington, Massachusetts is typical of the type of project needed to foster such beneficial transportation policy. As just one example the scope of its beneficial environmental impact, this one project could reduce diesel fuel dependency by over a million gallons annually.

I strongly support the NET proposal to transport contaminants by rail so that our inner cities can be free of pollutants. I urge you to give this project prompt and expeditious consideration and approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Owens".

Bill Owens
State Senator, (Ret.)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that on this 26 day of January, 2006, I served a copy of the foregoing comments of Senator Bill Owens 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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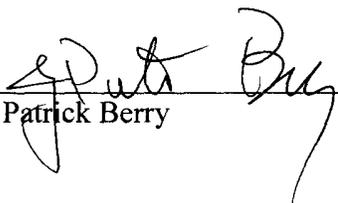
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