



**AMERICAN SHORT LINE AND  
REGIONAL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION**

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*The Voice of America's Independent Railroads*

February 3, 2006

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

RE: *Ex Parte No. 647, Class Exemption for Expedited Abandonment Procedure for Class II  
and Class III Railroads*

Dear Secretary Williams:

The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association requests permission to file its Notice of Intent to Participate in the above-referenced proceeding one day beyond the deadline due to the absence of the undersigned on or shortly before February 2, 2006 and unavailability of alternate resources to file the required notice. The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association represents over 420 Class II and Class III railroads as their trade association and voice on regulatory matters. The Association believes strongly that its comments will provide unique data and information to the Board in this proceeding which will be otherwise unavailable should its request to file its notice of participation one day out of time be denied.

Sincerely,

Keith T. Borman  
Vice President & General Counsel