

LAW OFFICES OF  
**LOUIS E. GITOMER**

LOUIS E. GITOMER  
LOU\_GITOMER@VERIZON.NET

THE ADAMS BUILDING, SUITE 301  
600 BALTIMORE AVENUE  
TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204-4022  
(202) 466-6532  
FAX (410) 332-0885

March 24, 2008

Honorable Anne K. Quinlan  
Acting Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20423

RE: Ex Parte No. 677, *Common Carrier Obligation of Railroads*

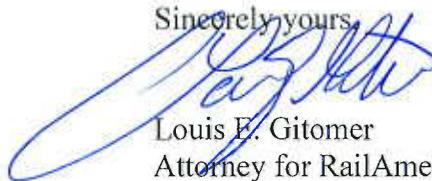
Dear Acting Secretary Quinlan:

Paul Lundberg, Vice President of RailAmerica, Inc. wishes to speak at the hearing of Ex Parte No. 677 on April 24, 2008. RailAmerica is a holding company that controls 41 short line and regional railroads, operating approximately 7,800 miles in 25 states and three Canadian provinces. RailAmerica requests 10 minutes at the hearing for Mr. Lundberg to address and answer questions concerning the following issues raised in the notice in this proceeding served on February 22, 2008:

1. The common carrier obligation is not just an obligation of the railroad. The railroad holds itself out to the public as offering to transport freight for a fee. The railroad is generally required to transport freight, without refusal, if the charge is paid.
2. Carrier-imposed requirements for shippers, such as for infrastructure investments and volume requirements or incentives are proper.
3. Rail embargoes are a necessary tool in order to protect the safety of employees, local communities, and the goods handled by the railroads.
4. The determination of whether and when to seek abandonment authorization should be left to the individual railroad.
5. The Board's Office of Compliance and Consumer Assistance should continue to act as an unbiased informal mediator between the shipper and the railroad.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Louis E. Gitomer  
Attorney for RailAmerica, Inc.