

*Southern Motor Carrier Rate Conference*

Thank you, Chairman Nober.

Firstly, I would like to thank the staff for their work leading up to this hearing. I greatly appreciate the time they took with me and my staff to discuss the issues of this proceeding.

Secondly, I would just like to reiterate for the record that the Board follows the generally accepted principle that grants of antitrust immunity are to be narrowly construed. Given that standard, petitioners have quite a task before them to demonstrate that nationwide ratemaking authority will promote better service to the public or economy of operation, or that it will not unreasonably restrain competition. In light of this standard, I am looking forward to hearing from the parties in today's hearing.

Thank you.