



ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS

Law Department
Dennis J. Starks
Senior Commerce Counsel

July 26, 2004

BY HAND DELIVERY

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



ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JUL 26 2004

Part of
Public Record

Re: Ex Parte No. 647 - - Class Exemption For Expedited Abandonment
Procedure For Class II and Class III Railroads

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE

Dear Secretary Williams:

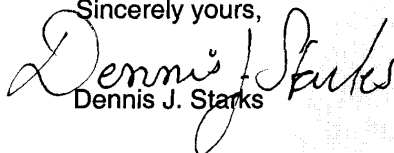
Pursuant to Notice of Public Hearing served July 22, 2004, in the above captioned proceeding, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) hereby submits its Notice of Intent to Participate in this proceeding and at the public hearing. In connection therewith, the AAR requests an allotment of 20 minutes of "speaker" time at the hearing.

Lastly, in accordance with the Board's July 22 notice, the AAR will file with the Board written testimony by August 3, 2004.

As required by the Board, ten copies of this AAR Notice of Intent to Participate are included herewith.

Please date-stamp the extra copy of the Comments and this Letter, provided for that purpose, and return the same to the undersigned via the Messenger hand delivering them.

Sincerely yours,


Dennis J. Starks