



ENTERED
Office of the Secretary

FEB 29 2000

Part of
Public Record

PHONE: (250) 998-4415
FAX: (250) 998-4346

P.O. BOX 173
PRINCE GEORGE, B.C.
CANADA V2L 4S1



Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
Base Control Unit
Att: STB Ex Parte No.582
925 K Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Dear Sir;

Dunkley Lumber Ltd. is a medium sized manufacturer of softwood lumber in the Prince George British Columbia area, and is a major user of rail service in Canada and the United States. The CN and BNSF handle 90% of our rail traffic. The purpose of this letter is to comment on the issues to be discussed on March 8, 2000 in Ex Parte 582.

We encourage the Surface Transportation Board to focus on whether the proposed CN-BNSF combination is good for shippers, not on potential downstream effects. The CN-BNSF combination should be gauged on its merits and if other carriers propose mergers, then these cases should be evaluated on their merits.

The timing of the proposed CN-BNSF combination is not the central issue for our company. Our main concern is service, which includes on time deliveries and a competitive delivered price. Recent mergers have failed on service, not because of timing. Accordingly, the Surface Transportation Board should focus on ensuring that CN-BNSF combination, and any other future mergers, will continue to deliver service to their customers.

The Surface Transportation Board has a comprehensive process in place to evaluate railroad transactions and protect the public interest. It should fairly evaluate the CN-BNSF combination according to that process and not let other railroads use this process to protect themselves.

Regards

Blain Hicks

Blain Hicks
Sales Manager