



August 26, 2004

The Honorable Roger Nober
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 34421

Dear Mr. Chairman:

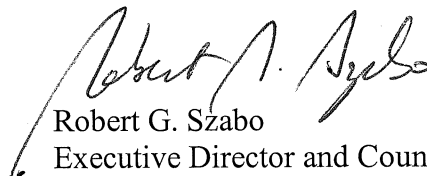
We are writing this letter to express the support of the members of Consumers United for Rail Equity (C.U.R.E.) for the petition by HolRail, a subsidiary of Holcim (US) Inc., to construct a two-mile long rail line from the Holcim plant in Holly Hill, South Carolina to a connection with Norfolk Southern Railroad. Currently, this facility is captive to the CSX Railroad and is experiencing both poor service and unreasonably high rates. The two-mile long "build out" will allow the facility to achieve competitive rail service and its accompanying benefits.

We are keenly aware of the policy of the Board that favors "build outs" to achieve railroad competition. You have expressed that policy in your testimony to congressional committees, in press releases relating to Board actions taken on petitions for "build outs" and in other of your public statements. We will not repeat in this letter the case for the build out in this specific matter, since that case has been made sufficiently in the petition and other documents filed by HolRail.

We would like to address very briefly one factor in this matter that seems to separate it from most build out situations. That distinguishing factor is that the proposed build out in this case would be within and along the right of way of the CSX railroad. While unusual, from our understanding of the facts, this seems to be the optimum route for providing competition for Holcim while protecting an environmentally sensitive area. We believe that this line can be built and operated in this right of way area without disrupting the operations of the CSX, which interruption would not serve the best interests of Holcim. Reasonable compensation can be awarded CSX for the use of the right of way by HolRail.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We encourage you to approve promptly the petition so that access to competition by this facility can be achieved at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,


Robert G. Szabo
Executive Director and Counsel