

39906
SEC

SERVICE DATE – LATE RELEASE APRIL 17, 2009

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

NOTICE

STB Ex Parte No. 688

POLICY ALTERNATIVES TO INCREASE COMPETITION
IN THE RAILROAD INDUSTRY

Decided: April 17, 2009

By a decision served April 14, 2009, the Board scheduled a public hearing for Monday, May 18, 2009, and Tuesday, May 19, 2009, at its headquarters in Washington, DC. This hearing was announced as a public forum to allow interested persons to comment on the current issues stemming from the agency's "bottleneck" and competitive access decisions, the continuing propriety of the Board's policies on competitive access, the effects on rates and service these policies have had, and the possible implications of changing these policies.

By letter dated April 17, 2009, Senator John D. Rockefeller, Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and Senator Frank R. Lautenberg, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security, "respectfully request that the Board refrain from holding the hearings to examine policies related to competitive access or bottleneck rates before the Commerce Committee has had an opportunity to conduct its legislative review" of issues related to Board reauthorization. In light of this request and other considerations, the hearing date will be postponed until further order of the Board. Interested parties should not submit written testimony or comments until the Board issues a new schedule.

By the Board, Anne K. Quinlan, Acting Secretary.

Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary