October 13, 2004

VIA E-MAIL

Docket Clerk
DOT Docket Management Facility
Room PL-401 (Plaza Level)
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Docket No. FRA-2004-18746, Union Pacific Railroad Company – Petition for Waiver

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am enclosing for filing in the above proceeding a letter by the City of Laredo dated October 5, 2004 supporting the requested waiver. Although the City sent this letter directly to FRA, it has not yet appeared on the DOT DMS website, and we are concerned that FRA may not have received it.

Very truly yours,

Robert T. Opal

RTO/mls
Enclos.

Robert T. Opal
General Commerce Counsel

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
1400 Douglas St., Stop 1580, Omaha, NE 68179-1580
ph. (402) 544-3072 fx. (402) 501-0132
rtopal@up.com

CITY OF LAREDO

LAREDO, TEXAS
1755

ELIZABETH G. FLORES
Mayor

October 5, 2004

Docket Clerk
DOT Docket Management Facility
Room PL-401 (Plaza Level)
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

RE: FRA Docket No. 2004-18746

Dear Administrator:

The Port of Laredo handles the majority of rail cargo between the United States and Mexico. The Union Pacific Railroad crosses north-south and the Texas-Mexican Railway crosses east-west, bisecting Laredo and creating major access obstructions. Our citizens, our schools, our trade community and especially our emergency service providers feel helpless, held hostage throughout the day.

The amount of rail traffic is growing daily and each train is getting longer and longer and causing more delays for our citizens at crossings. A major cause of these delays is the time that the rail companies spend having to process mechanical inspections and air brakes tests again once the train enters the United States.

We respectfully request that these inspections be done only on the Mexican side to U.S. Standards at the Sanchez Rail Yard. I would ask that you grant the rail companies doing business in our City a waiver to allow TFM to perform train inspections minutes away from the river in Mexico. This would allow for less inconvenience at rail crossings and provide a safer environment for our citizens.

In Laredo we continually look for methods to decrease congestion caused by the amount of trade crossing at our Port. We are also ever vigilant to threats against our country. We believe that this Waiver will help us meet this goal. By allowing this process to be done in Mexico, trains can travel directly from the bridge northbound. If you have any questions, you may contact me at (956) 791-7381.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth G. Flores

Elizabeth G. Flores

1110 HOUSTON P.O. BOX 579 LAREDO, TEXAS 78042-0579 (956) 791-7400 FAX. (956) 791-7314