Here, NPR seeks authorization for a lease from Soo of nearly 300 miles of rail line in Minnesota and North Dakota (the "Wheat Line"). NPR has leased this line since 1997 and now seeks a 20-year renewal. According to the notice (and further detailed in materials filed under seal), the prospective lease includes "a provision that would limit NPR's future interchange of Wheat Line traffic with a third-party connecting carrier at *any* location." *Notice of Exemption* at 4 (emphasis added).

I have indicated my view that interchange commitments should be subject to a searching review by the Board to determine whether they comport with the statute under which Board authorization is sought. *See, e.g., Washington & Idaho Ry.—Lease and Operation Exemption—BNSF Ry.,* FD 35370 (STB served Apr. 23, 2010) (Mulvey, commenting). When the Board adopted new disclosure rules regarding interchange commitments in 2008, we indicated that interchange commitments that contain a total ban on interchange with other carriers would be closely scrutinized. *Review of Rail Access and Competition Issues—Renewed Petition of the Western Coal Traffic League,* EP 575, slip op. at 15 (STB served Oct. 30, 2007); *Disclosure of Rail Interchange Commitments,* EP 575 (Sub-No. 1) (STB served May 29, 2008). To fulfill that commitment in this case, the Board should have required a full application (or individual petition for exemption), so that the Board could analyze the competitive impact of the interchange commitment. In certain cases, the Board has required more extensive procedures in transactions that otherwise qualify for the notice process but are deemed to be controversial or non-routine. *See, e.g., Northeast Interchange Ry.—Lease and Operation Exemption—Line in Croton-on-Hudson, NY,* FD 34734 (STB served Nov. 18, 2005). Our failure to do so here is disappointing, particularly given the length of the leased line, the length of the renewal period, and the fact that the 1997 Board decision authorizing the original lease did not analyze the interchange commitment. *See Northern Plains R.R.—Lease and Operation Exemption—Certain Lines of Soo Line R.R.,* FD 33324 (STB served Jan. 9, 1997).

It is time for the Board to build upon its interchange commitment disclosure rules by also disallowing utilization of the class notice of exemption procedure for transactions that prohibit interchange with third party carriers.

Jeffrey Herzig,

Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2010–19450 Filed 8–5–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Sunshine Act Meetings; Unified Carrier Registration Plan Board of Directors

AGENCY: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.

TIME AND DATE: August 12, 2010, 12 noon to 3 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time.

PLACE: This meeting will take place telephonically. Any interested person may call Mr. Avelino Gutierrez at (505) 827–4565 to receive the toll free number and pass code needed to participate in this meeting by telephone.

STATUS: Open to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: The Unified Carrier Registration Plan Board of Directors (the Board) will continue its work in developing and implementing the Unified Carrier Registration Plan and Agreement and to that end, may consider matters properly before the Board.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Avelino Gutierrez, Chair, Unified Carrier Registration Board of Directors at (505) 827–4565.

Issued on: August 4, 2010.

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator for Policy and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 2010–19590 Filed 8–4–10; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 4910–EX–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD–2010 0071]

Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Invitation for public comments on a requested administrative waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws for the vessel RAINDANCER.

SUMMARY: As authorized by 46 U.S.C. 12121, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below. The complete application is given in DOT docket MARAD–2010–0071 at *http://www.regulations.gov.* Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines, in accordance with 46 U.S.C. 12121 and MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388 (68 FR 23084; April 30, 2003), that the issuance of the waiver will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels in that business, a waiver will not be granted. Comments should refer to the docket number of this notice and the vessel name in order for MARAD to properly consider the comments. Comments should also state the commenter's interest in the waiver application, and address the waiver criteria given in § 388.4 of MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

DATES: Submit comments on or before September 7, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD–2010–0071. Written comments may be submitted by hand or by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590. You may also send comments electronically via the Internet at *http://www.regulations.govhttp://smses.dot.gov/submit/.* All comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. An electronic version of this document and all documents entered into this docket is available on the World Wide Web at *http://www.regulations.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joann Spittle, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Room W21–203, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202–366–5979.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel RAINDANCER is:

Intended Commercial Use of Vessel: "Chartered Trips for passengers."

Geographic Region: "California, Florida, Puerto Rico."