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The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott, III
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Chairman Elliott:

Electric utilities in Minnesota remain deeply concerned that the lack of reliable rail service is leading to dangerously low levels of coal stockpiles to make it through the long Minnesota winter.

In a letter sent to the Surface Transportation Board (STB) on October 13, 2014, Governor Dayton joined us in requesting that the STB require railroad carriers to submit publicly-available coal service plans to help ensure utilities are receiving timely and predictable shipments of coal.

We support the Western Coal Traffic League's (WCTL) petition to the STB last week requiring BNSF to file a coal-specific service recovery plan addressing coal shortages affecting many of its customers. The STB subsequently directed BNSF to reply to the WCTL petition by November 3, 2014. With winter quickly approaching, we urge the STB to swiftly approve and enforce a service plan that would ensure delivery of adequate coal supplies needed to heat homes and businesses.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with you to help ensure electric utilities in Minnesota have access to adequate rail service.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator