



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

116 Veterans Service Building ♦ 20 West 12th Street ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

October 31, 2014

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
November 3, 2014
Part of
Public Record

Dear Chairman Elliott:

On October 13, 2014, Senator Amy Klobuchar, Senator Al Franken, and I wrote you expressing our concerns with the BNSF Railway's performance meeting the needs of Minnesota customers, including coal delivery shortfalls to electric utilities in Minnesota. Despite BNSF Railway's assurances that it is working to fulfill its obligations, utilities in Minnesota are continuing to restrict operation of coal-fired power plants in order to conserve their existing coal stockpiles. This is becoming increasingly worrisome as we head into winter.

On October 22, 2014, the Western Coal Traffic League (WCTL) filed a petition with the Surface Transportation Board (STB), asking the Board to require the BNSF Railway to file a coal-specific service recovery plan to address coal shortages plaguing many of its members, which is similar to the request the Senators and I made in our letter to you on October 13th. The WCTL suggested several specific actions, which a service recovery plan should contain, and asked the STB to approve, and then enforce, the service plan.

I appreciate your recognition of this important issue by directing the BNSF to reply to the WCTL petition within 10 days, or no later than November 3, 2014. I write to you today to express my full support of the WCTL petition urging the Board to require the BNSF Railway to publicly file a coal service recovery plan within 10 days of the issuance of an appropriate order by the Board. I further urge the Board to issue such an order promptly.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact my Senior Policy Advisor, Joanna Dornfeld, at 651-201-3423, or via email at joanna.dornfeld@state.mn.us.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: Deb Miller, Vice Chair, Surface Transportation Board
Anne D. Begeman, Board Member, Surface Transportation Board
Cheryl A. LaFleur, Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission