

August 14, 2014

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EP 724

Ann D. Begeman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington D.C., 20423

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Office of Proceedings  
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Dear Ms. Begeman,

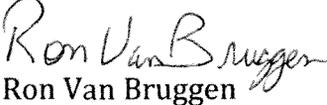
My name is Ron Van Bruggen. I farm at Litchville, N.D., and raise wheat, corn and soybeans. My farmstead is located 15 miles from the nearest elevator.

Our elevator has had an extremely difficult time getting railcars this spring and summer. It makes crop marketing very difficult. The delays have affected my bottom line in a big way. The basis for railcars on the secondary market at our elevator is now at 50¢ a bushel, about \$2,000 a car. That cost eats away at my income and doesn't include trucking costs to and from the elevator.

Transportation obviously plays a big factor in the profitability of my operation. I can't afford 60¢ or 70¢ a bushel in transportation costs on my 1900 acre farm. I worry that the railcar situation won't be any better come harvest. Like my neighbors, I need to empty bins to make way for this year's crop. But I should be given a fair price for the 2013 crop, not have it eaten up in transportation costs.

BNSF and CP need to provide reliable service that is fair to everyone held captive to them as shippers. They should be ramping up railcar delivery in the spring and harvest to meet seasonal demand. It doesn't take a crystal ball to figure that out. Please hold them accountable for their excuses, lack of service and highway robbery prices on railcars.

Sincerely,

  
Ron Van Bruggen  
5925 Co. Rd. 60  
Litchville, ND 58461