



Steve Bullock
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Valerie Quinn
Surface Transportation Board
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Washington, DC 20423

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Office of Proceedings
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Public Record

RE: EP 665 (Sub-No. 1), Notice of Montana Department of Agriculture's Intent to Participate

29 May 2015

Dear Ms. Quinn

The Montana Department of Agriculture intends to participate in the Ex Parte 665 (Sub-No. 1) public hearing on June 10, 2015. The Department requests 15 minutes to discuss the following topics:

- How increasing rail rates affect Montana's agriculture industry and overall economy
- Challenges facing Montana grain shippers in negotiating rates with rail carriers
- The burden imposed on Montana producers and shippers by the current rules
- Suggestions for improving the rate appeals process, including aggregation of claims
- Suggestions for increasing transparency in the rate-setting process

Chief Legal Counsel Cort Jensen or Staff Attorney Benjamin Tiller will present oral testimony on behalf of the Department.

Sincerely

Benjamin C. Tiller, Esq.
Staff Attorney