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**Congress of the United States**  
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**Washington, DC 20515-2306**

July 29, 2016

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241445

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

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
September 7, 2016  
Part of  
Public Record

Re: Docket No. AB 1011 (Sub-No. 3X)

Dear Chairman Elliott III,

I am writing in regards to a matter before the Surface Transportation Board ("Board") pertaining to the Discontinuance of Service Exemption petition filed by Northern Lines Railway Company, LLC ("NLR") under 49 U.S.C. § 10502 to discontinue rail service along tracks in East St. Cloud, Stearns and Benton Counties, Minnesota which connect main lines owned by BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") between MP 73 and MP 75 ("Subject Segments") from prior approval under 49 U.S.C. § 10903.

Before the Board is the determination that NLR's petition meets requirements for exemption under 49 U.S.C. § 10502. NLR feels that its exemption application is sufficient pursuant to an exemption under 49 U.S.C § 10502(a) because "the transaction or service is of limited scope" and "the application in whole or in part of the provision is not needed to protect shippers from the abuse of market power."

I have heard from constituents and district businesses that believe prompt consideration of this matter will enable earlier construction and as a result, earlier operational services for the people of St. Cloud. With the Board's adjudication of this petition, important economic development can occur, including clearing up any confusion regarding federal right-of-way, and operational control over this section of track.

I encourage the full and fair consideration of NLR's exemption petition for discontinuance between MP 73 and MP 75, consistent with applicable law, rules, and regulations.

Thank you for your consideration, I look forward to hearing the Board's decision. If I can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me for any additional information.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress