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

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Dear Member Begeman,

My name is Robert Kuylen. I farm a third-generation family farm at South Heart, N.D. My neighbors and I need your help with BNSF and CP's unreliable rail service in our area. It is sporadic at best and seems to be virtually nonexistent for weeks at a time.

Storage at local elevators is maxed out. Most elevators won't even accept grain, even grain that is contracted with them because there are no railcars to move anything to market. It is anyone's guess as to when a train will come in. I have my local elevator on speed dial, constantly calling them to see if I can bring my grain in.

Harvest will begin shortly. I have limited storage space on my farm. Like farmers everywhere, I am hoping for a good crop. What is worrisome is that I may lose part of my crop if it has to be stored on the ground because the elevator won't take it. Harvest is stressful enough without this added burden.

Historically, there always is a lack of railcars at harvest in North Dakota. Farmers who don't have a lot of storage capacity on their farm bring the crop to the elevator straight from the field. If the railcar situation doesn't turn around in a few short weeks, we won't even have that option. Something needs to be done immediately!

Please use your oversight authority of the railroads to ensure that we have the necessary cars delivered in a timely manner to avert disaster this harvest season.

Sincerely,




Robert F. Kuylen
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