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Ms. Cynthia T. Brown  
Chief, Section of Administration  
Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20423

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing to urge the Surface Transportation Board to make a finding that there is a profound lack of rail-to-rail competition in the national rail system. The STB should change its policies to enable increased rail-to-rail competition.

I am a director on the board of Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative. WE serve 5400+ members, That count on us to keep their electric bills affordable. This includes widows & retired people that are living on a fixed income. With costs of everything they need to live a normal life going up (and they are going up) it is putting a strain on their budget. They have worked hard raised their families & are living a stressful retirement, wondering if their income will last thru the year. Anything we can do to put a little extra in their pockets every month will help. Farmers, co-op elevators, electric co-ops, anyone who ships by rail will benefit. we will put a little extra in all their members pockets. We will give a boost to this economy instead of increasing the bank accounts of large rail corporations. If we all work together and eliminate greed we will create a country that is peaceful, proud,& free. So do your part & we can make this a better place to live & work.

Rural-based business and agriculture rely on affordable electricity. Increased rail competition will help maintain affordable electric rates in rural America and will improve economic opportunities for rural communities like mine.

Increased rail competition will also increase the revenues of American agriculture by improving the ability of producers and manufacturers to ship their products affordably, thus improving exports, creating jobs and improving the standard of living in rural communities.

The Surface Transportation Board has an opportunity to make a positive difference and help improve our economy. The comments that the STB has received include numerous examples of the lack of adequate competition in the railroad industry. I hope the STB will find that there is inadequate competition in the railroad industry and will then revise their policies to enhance rail-to-rail competition in order to help preserve affordable electricity and good jobs throughout America.

Thank you.

Gerald Sundquist  
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