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March 11, 2005

The Honorable Vernon Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington DC 20423

Re: ***BNSF Railway Company – Acquisition and Operation – State of South Dakota
Finance Docket No.: 34667***

Dear Secretary Williams:

I am Chief Executive Officer for The Scoular Company, a North American marketer of Agricultural Products. I am writing in support of BNSF's proposed purchase of the South Dakota Core rail network.

The Scoular Company has a very substantial capital investment in a grain shuttle train loading facility on the Core Line at Alpena, South Dakota. This investment was made because the line provides The Scoular Company with *direct access* to every significant market for the grain products produced in South Dakota and marketed by our company, utilizing a business model that encourages and rewards efficient operational practices. It is our opinion that such practices are the key to the long term sustainability of an economic and effective rail transportation system, not only in South Dakota but in the entire United States. Our company and the agricultural industry depend upon a reliable, efficient and economic rail network in South Dakota and throughout the country, including direct access opportunities such as that which is operated by BNSF over the Core Line.

BNSF's purchase of the Core Line will ensure the continuation of the present direct access opportunity in South Dakota, and that BNSF will continue to be a key part of South Dakota's transportation network. In addition, ownership of the Core Line will ensure BNSF has a continued investment incentive to grow the business on the Core Line. Healthy sustained investment for the long run is important to The Scoular Company and its customers in order to allow continued timely and competitively priced rail transportation service for agricultural products originating in South Dakota.

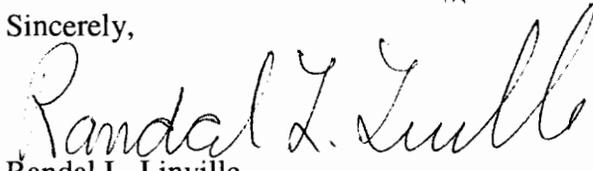
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We believe BNSF's purchase will benefit our company and the shipping community nation wide by preserving the present direct access opportunity, and we urge your prompt approval of BNSF's purchase. Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randal L. Linville". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Randal L. Linville

President and Chief Executive Officer

The Scoular Company

Cc: Sarah Bailiff, BNSF
(via fax 817-352-2397)