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August 9, 2007

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Attn STB Ex Parte No 670
395 E Street, S W
Washington, D C 20423-0001

Re Ex Parte No 670, Establishment of the Rail
Energy Transportation Advisory Committee

Dear Secretary Williams

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) recommends William L. (Bill) Berg to serve as one of the cooperative representatives on the proposed Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC), as announced in the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) recent decision of July 17, 2007

The Board is looking to the RETAC to serve as a forum for discussions on issues related to the transportation by rail of energy resources. Bill is the CEO of Dairyland Power Cooperative of La Crosse, Wisconsin. Dairyland provides the wholesale electric requirements and other services for 25 rural electric distribution cooperatives and 20 municipal utilities which supply the energy needs for nearly half a million people. Dairyland operates one hydro, three combustion turbines and three coal-fired generating stations with 1110 MW of capacity. To supply its coal-fired power plants, Dairyland buys coal from the Powder River Basin blending it with local and east coast coal. Coal deliveries utilize barge as well as rail deliveries.

Mr. Richards is well qualified to be a member of the RETAC. He has a lengthy background and knowledge of fuel, barge and rail transportation issues, with thirty-five years' utility experience, the last 17 as CEO of Dairyland Power Cooperative. Mr. Richards would bring to RETAC an experienced perspective because of his long experience and should be of immense value in helping the Board to bring about effective railroad regulatory policies and oversight.

Bill serves on a variety of boards and committees, including the Board of Directors of GEN-SYS Energy, Forward Wisconsin, and the Board of Advisors of Viterbo University. He is a member of the Environmental Task Force of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, a past president of the National G&T Managers Association and has served on the Board of Directors of the Electric Power Research Institute.

NRECA is the national service organization representing the 930 non-profit rural electric utilities providing central station electricity to more than 40 million consumer-owners in 47 states.

I recommend Mr. Berg to the Board's for favorable consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Glenn English
CEO
NRECA