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March 25, 2008

Anne K Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE Ex Parte No 677
Common Carrier Obligation of Railroads

Dear Acting Secretary Quinlan

The North Dakota Grain Dealers Association intends to participate in this proceeding with written comments and oral testimony at the April 24, 2008 public hearing. Lively witness is Steven D. Strege, Executive Vice President of NDGDA. We request ten minutes for our presentation. Our comments will address the challenges grain shippers sometimes face in obtaining rail transportation, the requirements imposed on them by railroads to receive service, how the common carrier obligation is important for service to various markets, why the common carrier obligation is necessary and appropriate, and related matters.

Sincerely,

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