

205886



Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW, Room 700
Washington, DC 20423-0001

July 11, 2002

Re: Finance Docket No. 34177
Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad Corporation
Acquisition and Operation Exemption
Lines of I & M Rail Link, LLC

Finance Docket No. 34178
Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad Corporation
And Cedar American Rail Holdings, Inc. Control
Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad Corporation

205887

Dear Mr. Williams

Enclosed are the original and 10 copies of my verified statement on behalf of North Central Farmers Elevator concerning the above referenced proceedings before the Surface Transportation Board. Please include this statement in the appropriate records of the Board.

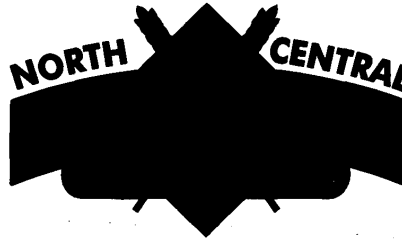
Sincerely,

Mike Nickolas
Grain Marketing Manager
North Central Farmers Elevator

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
JUL 19 2002
Part of
Public Record

NORTH CENTRAL FARMERS ELEVATOR

P.O. Box 366 Ipswich, SD 57451
tel: (605) 426-6021 or 1-800-658-3353 fax: (605) 426-6161



Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW, room 700
Washington, DC 20423-0001

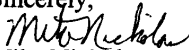
July 11, 2002

Dear Mr. Williams

North Central Farmers Elevator, Ipswich SD urges the STB to approve the DME purchase of the IMRL rail line. This would greatly benefit our company and the ag industry of SD. This approval would give our facility at Northville SD access to a direct rail line to destinations such as Chicago and Kansas City. With this approval the DME railroad would become more competitive with their rail rates. This would allow North Central Farmers Elevator to be more competitive when purchasing our farmer owners grain and in turn put more dollars in their pockets.

Any further delays in this decision would be a detriment to the agriculture industry of South Dakota.

Sincerely,


Mike Nickolas

Grain Marketing Manager
North Central Farmers Elevator

NORTH CENTRAL FARMERS ELEVATOR

P.O. Box 366 Ipswich, SD 57451
tel: (605) 426-6021 or 1-800-658-3353 fax: (605) 426-6161



Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW, Room 700
Washington, DC 20423-0001

July 11, 2002

Re: Finance Docket No. 34177
Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad Corporation
Acquisition and Operation Exemption
Lines of I & M Rail Link, LLC

Finance Docket No. 34178
Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad Corporation
And Cedar American Rail Holdings, Inc. Control
Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad Corporation

Dear Mr. Williams

Enclosed are the original and 10 copies of my verified statement on behalf of North Central Farmers Elevator concerning the above referenced proceedings before the Surface Transportation Board. Please include this statement in the appropriate records of the Board.

Certificate of Service. This document was served to the Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad P.O. Box 178, Brookings SD 57006

Sincerely,

Mike Nickolas
Grain Marketing Manager
North Central Farmers Elevator

NORTH CENTRAL FARMERS ELEVATOR

P.O. Box 366 Ipswich, SD 57451