

DEC 16 2009

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**Roseau County Trailblazers
Buck Bue, President
62726 300th Street
Warroad, MN 56763**

November 30, 2009

Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW, Suite 1149
Washington, DC 20423-0001



Re: Minnesota Northern Railroad Abandonment in Roseau County,
Minnesota, STB Docket Number AB-497 (Sub-No. 5X)

Dear Ms. Quinlan,

Pursuant to your letter of November 10, 2009, we provide this request is which filed on behalf of the Roseau County Trailblazers, (proponent) a 501C4 non- profit recreational club located in Northwestern Minnesota, along with the requisite \$250.00.

The Roseau County Trailblazers request issuance of an Interim Trail Use Condition. The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for railbanking.

In order to establish interim trail use and railbanking under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. §1247(d), and 49 CFR §1152.29, the proponent is willing to assume full responsibility for management of the proposed rail abandonment land, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of (unless the user is immune from liability, in which case it need only indemnify the railroad against any potential liability), and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way owned by and operated by Minnesota Northern Railroad, Inc.

The Minnesota Northern Railroad abandonment property extends between milepost No. 83.6 located approximately 300 feet west of Roseau County Road 124 in Roseau, and milepost 103.635, which is the end of the line at Warroad, a distance of 20.035 miles in Roseau County, Minnesota.

The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No. AB-497(Sub-No. 5X). The proponent acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to the user's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

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Proponent asks the STB to find that this property is suitable for other public use, specifically trail use, and to place the following conditions on the abandonment:

1. An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than the tracks, ties and signal equipment, except for public use on reasonable terms. Justification for this condition is: The rail corridor in question connects the cities of Roseau, Salol, and Warroad all of which have possible trail connections to other trail systems traversing through Roseau County. The corridor would make an excellent recreational trail and conversion of the property to trail use is in accordance with planning activities of recreational clubs in Minnesota. This corridor provides important wildlife habitat for the Sharp Tailed Grouse and Ruffed Grouse in Northwestern Minnesota, along with a variety of mammals. Plans of the trail club will continue to focus on restoration of native prairie when applicable.

The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Proponent needs this much time: to assure all the land titles are cleared, work on a trail plan to incorporate this portion, and begin financial networking with other state agencies.

2. An order barring removal or destruction of potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles, culverts and tunnels. The justification for this condition is that these structures have considerable value for recreational trail purposes. The time period requested is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization for the same reason as indicated above.

By my signature below, I certify service upon Minnesota Northern Railroad, Inc., by Certified U.S. Mail, this day of November 30, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Buck Bue, President
Roseau County Trailblazers

