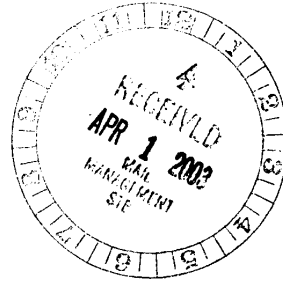


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March 26, 2003

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The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: Docket No. AB-103 (Sub-No. 15) - 207498
Kansas City Southern Railway company-Adverse Abandonment-
In St. Clair County, IL and
Docket No. AB-849 - 207500
Gateway Eastern Railway Company-Adverse Abandonment-In
St. Clair County, IL

Dear Sir:

We manage about 7,000 acres in Greene County, Illinois. One of our primary grain merchandisers is the Carrollton Farmers Elevator (CFE). Together with our six tenants we produce 500,000 bushels of corn and 175,000 bushels of beans. We feel that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) should be denied its request for adverse abandonment.

The CFE is a price setter in the community for agriculture commodities since its competition is all river barge freight. If the CFE is forced to use another railroad to hand off its freight, not only will it add time, but also cost. CFE estimates the increase in freight to be about \$.10 per bushel. The river terminals will then have the luxury of reducing their bids by the same amount. We feel that his lower price will equate to \$10 per acre in lost revenue.

The agriculture sector of our economy has suffered significant losses. Without the government assistance provided over the past years, farmers would not have survived. The economic impact of your decision should be considered heavily. **We urge you to oppose IDOT's request.**

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sam Martin".

Samuel L. Martin

Cc: Mr. Thomas J. Healey
Mr. William A. Mullins