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Ms. Cynthia Brown  
Chief, Section of Administration  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0111

RE: Docket No. EP\_724\_4  
Case Title: United States Rail Service Issues – Performance Data Reporting

Dear Chief Brown,

The South Dakota Corn Growers Association, representing 1,500 farmer-members, strongly supports continuation of the weekly performance reports by Class I railroads.

These reports have been a huge benefit to grain cooperatives, ethanol plants, grain associations, agronomy centers, farmers and others. The data provides an accurate picture of rail service and railcar availability, and helps immensely in making knowledge-based, business decisions.

This type of information will always be beneficial to rail shippers and agricultural organizations and the benefits far outweigh any minor inconvenience they might create for railroads.

These reports also provide the Surface Transportation Board with information that might help it identify and resolve any future service disruptions, such as the ones experienced in 2013 and 2014 in the Dakotas.

South Dakota farmers harvested record corn and soybean crops in recent years and that trend is likely to continue. Smooth, efficient rail service is vital to our state. We are thankful the STB took action to require these rail reports and we urge the board to continue them on a permanent basis.

Keith Alverson, president  
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Lisa Richardson  
Executive Director