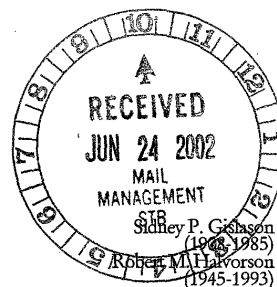


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June 20, 2002

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

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Public Record

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 700
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Finance Docket No. 34177 → 205680
Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad Corporation –
Acquisition and Operation Exemption –
Lines of I&M Rail Link. LLC

Finance Docket No. 34178 → 205681
Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation
and Cedar American Rail Holdings, Inc.—Control—
Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad Corporation
Our File No. 8229-175

Dear Mr. Williams:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned matters, please find the original and ten copies of the Verified Statement of Randall M. Rieke on Behalf of Southern Grainbelt Shippers Association.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Sara N. Wilson

Sara N. Wilson

SNW/
Enclosures

cc: Mr. Allan J. Vogel
Mr. Randall Rieke
Mr. Lynn Anderson

NULIB:103606.1

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State Bar Association

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VERIFIED STATEMENT
OF
RANDALL M. RIEKE
ON BEHALF OF
SOUTHERN GRAINBELT SHIPPERS ASSOCIATION



I, Randall Rieke, on behalf of the Southern Grainbelt Shippers Association, submit the following statement in support of the proposed acquisition of the I & M Rail Link's ("IMRL") rail lines by the Iowa, Chicago, & Eastern Railroad Corporation ("IC&E") as well as the proposed common control of IC&E and the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Company ("DM&E").

Southern Grainbelt Shippers Association, directly and indirectly, represent thousands of agricultural, commercial and industrial users of rail services in Southern Minnesota who are dependent upon existing rail infrastructure (*see* Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof). As part of its efforts, Southern Grainbelt Shippers Association takes an active interest in all transportation matters that affect the region.

Southern Grainbelt Shippers Association strongly supports the proposed acquisition of IMRL's rail lines by IC&E. The Surface Transportation Board's ("STB") authorization of said acquisition is integral to the maintenance and improvement of the overall existing rail infrastructure in Southern Minnesota. The businesses, communities and consumers in Southern Minnesota will be direct beneficiaries of such improved rail transportation services.

That benefit is demonstrated by the dramatic impact on market access for commodities and products bought and sold in the Southern Minnesota area. On the one hand, market access afforded by maintenance and improvement of the overall existing rail infrastructure generates substantially more favorable prices for products produced; on the other, costs of goods purchased is reduced on account of efficiencies in delivery.

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Providing an improved rail infrastructure that is more reliable and efficient ensures greater prosperity for the businesses, communities and consumers of Southern Minnesota. Insurance of a secure future for the IMRL rail lines correlates to greater prosperity for the businesses, communities and consumers in Southern Minnesota. The proposed acquisition of the IMRL lines by IC&E will ensure the long-term viability of a critical component of the transportation infrastructure of Southern Minnesota.

Southern Grainbelt Shippers Association encourages the STB to allow the acquisition by IC&E of the IMRL lines as soon as possible. It is important for our community that the current uncertainty regarding the IMRL lines be eliminated, and that the service opportunities and improvements offered by IC&E be achieved as quickly as possible.

Likewise, and for the same reasons of reliability, efficiency and improvement, we support the common control of IC&E and DM&E.

We believe that the proposed acquisition and control transaction will secure the long-term position of the IMRL rail lines as viable and competitive components of Southern Minnesota's transportation infrastructure. Southern Grainbelt Shippers Association encourages the STB's favorable and timely consideration of both transactions.

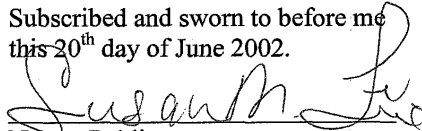
I, Randall M. Rieke, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing statement is true and correct, and that I am qualified and authorized to file this statement.

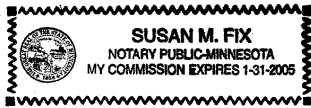
Dated: June 20, 2002



RANDALL M. RIEKE
Secretary/Treasurer for
Southern Grainbelt Shippers Association

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 20th day of June 2002.


Notary Public



NULIB:103584.1

EXHIBIT A

**Southern Grainbelt Shippers Association
Membership List**

All American Co-op
P.O. Box 148
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Alvin Resoft

Assoc. Milk Prod. Inc.
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Dick Wuttke

Briggs Business Comm.
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Peter A. Briggs

Cargill Inc.
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Bruce Carlson

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Cory Evans

Cenex Harvest States
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Dan Mack

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Shannon Christianson

Balaton Elevator Co.
P.O. Box 147
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Brown County Ag Co.
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Sleepy Eye, MN 56085
Dean Christenson

Cashman Fertilizer & Feed
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Del Monte Foods, Inc.
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Sleepy Eye, MN 56085
Jim Knetsch

Farmers Plant Food Inc.
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Clyde Knudson

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Dodge Center, MN 55927
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Brian Mathiowetz

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Chuck Piper

Greenway Co-op 135 West Front
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Scott Feller

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Northfield, MN 55057

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Lewiston, MN 55952

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Dan Blaisdell

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