



ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
April 21, 2022
Part of
Public Record

April 21, 2022

VIA E-FILING

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street Southwest
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman Oberman and Board Members:

SUBJECT: Docket No. EP 770 Urgent Issues in Freight Rail Service

My name is John P. Carr and I am the Vice President of Strategic Growth for Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland) based in La Crosse, WI. Dairyland is a Generation and Transmission Cooperative and our business is to provide wholesale power for our 24 member-owner Distribution Cooperatives serving a population of approximately 600,000 people in the rural areas of southern Minnesota, western Wisconsin, northeastern Iowa, and northwestern Illinois.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments in this docket. Dairyland recognizes the critical importance a high performing railroad industry plays in ensuring a strong U.S economy. The railroads we work with are critical partners for Dairyland in providing safe, reliable and cost-effective electric power for our Member Cooperatives. We are very much aware of the complex challenges the railroads face in meeting fluctuating demand across multiple commodities and industries, in particular, during the challenges presented by a global pandemic.

As the Board, Railroads, and other shipping interest groups work to develop, evaluate and execute plans to manage the demands for rail capacity, Dairyland wants to emphasize the critical importance of ensuring coal deliveries between now and the end of the year are sufficient to rebuild inventories to levels necessary to support reliable electric power supply through the critical winter months in the upper Midwest. While coal's role in the national electric supply has declined significantly over the past several years, the fuel still plays a very critical role in the upper Midwest, especially during the winter months, when natural gas pipeline infrastructure is often at full capacity in meeting home heating demand during extreme cold weather periods. Adequate coal inventories going into the winter months remain critically important to reliable electric power supplies in the upper Midwest.

We thank the Board for the opportunity to offer our written comments in this docket.

Respectfully,

/s/ John P. Carr

John P. Carr
Vice President, Strategic Growth

JPC:mkw