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March 13, 2017

Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW, Room 100
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
March 27, 2017
Part of
Public Record

**Re: Proposed railroad abandonment in Olmsted County, Minnesota
STB Docket No. AB-337 (Sub-No. 8X)**

Dear Ms. Brown:

The City of Eyota ("City") provides this letter in support of the proposed abandonment by Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation ("DM&E") of approximately 2.01 miles of rail line located on the outskirts of Eyota in Olmsted County.

DM&E has notified the City that it plans to seek Surface Transportation Board authorization to abandon the remainder of its Plainview Branch line from where it connects to DM&E's mainline to the end of the rail line at County Road 9. The City understands that DM&E has entered into an agreement with Kruegel Gas Service ("KGS") to sell approximately one-half mile of the rail line that is connected to DM&E's mainline to KGS after DM&E receives abandonment authority. KGS will use the portion of the line it purchases as private track to store cars and to receive continued rail service from DM&E. The City also understands that DM&E has entered into an agreement to sell the remainder of the line between Highway 14 and County Road 9 to the Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota for use as a recreational trail.

The City supports the proposed abandonment and the subsequent sale to KGS of the track connecting to DM&E's mainline, which will allow KGS to expand its operations and is consistent with the City's vision for increased economic development for the area. Similarly, the Parks & Trails Council's development of the recreational trail between Hwy. 14 and Co. Rd. 9 is consistent with the City's comprehensive plan. For these reasons, the City fully supports the proposed abandonment which will benefit the City and surrounding area.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Marlis Knowlton, City of Eyota Clerk/Treasurer
Representing the wishes of the City of Eyota Council

cc: Wayne Carten and Karl Hansen

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