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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

October 15, 2015

Mr. Josh Wayland
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
Washington, DC 20423

RE: STB Docket No. AB 6 (Sub No. 491X)
BNSF Railway to abandon .45 miles of rail line (MP 80.66 to MP 81.11)
St. Joseph, Stearns County
SHPO Number: 2015-1785

Dear Mr. Wayland,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above project. Information received in our office on 8 October 2015 has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and implementing federal regulations at 36 CFR 800.

As indicated in your agency's Environmental Assessment, the **Great Northern Railroad: Collegeville Segment (SN-SJT-001)**, a historic property which was previously determined **eligible** for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, is the subject rail line to be abandoned and therefore is located within the area of potential effect for the Federal undertaking. The proposed abandonment will allow for the rail line to be incorporated into the Lake Wobegon Trail, a project for which we have completed a Section 106 review with the Federal Highway Administration.

We concur with your agency's determination that the proposed rail line abandonment, which includes removal of tracks and ties, will have **no adverse effect** on the historic property.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached at 651-259-3456 or sarah.beimers@mnhs.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sarah J. Beimers'.

Sarah J. Beimers, Manager
Government Programs and Compliance

cc: Karl Morell, Karl Morell & Associates
Renee Hutter Barnes, MnDOT Cultural Resources Unit