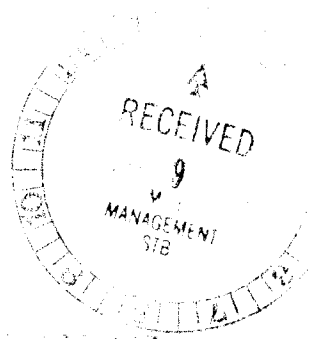


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BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARDDAKOTA, MINNESOTA & EASTERN RAILROAD CORPORATION
CONSTRUCTION INTO THE POWDER RIVER BASINCOMMENTS OF
Rodney Renner, owner and operator of a private farmENVIRONMENTAL
DOCUMENT

AUTHORITY AND INTEREST

My name is Rodney Renner and I am the owner and operator of our family farm located four miles north of Wall, SD. I am a third generation farmer of whose family came and homesteaded in the area North of Wall in 1907. We have depended on the railroad to carry our products to market and in earlier years in brought us goods and also provided transportation for our family members.

I feel that the continuation of the rail lines through western South Dakota is very important to our continued success in agriculture. I believe that the only way for the rail system to continue is to upgrade and expand its system into the Powder River Basin. Without that expansion, the present facility is bound to eventually fail. This will not only cost us more to move our products to market; but it will add a significant burden to the already overburdened interstate highway systems. With this in mind, we must consider the safety hazard that will be created by the increased truck traffic and the increase in air pollution from the engines that power these vehicles.

I speak in favor of the proposed rail expansion project and I strongly encourage support of the same.

Rodney Renner

23100 190th Ave.

Wall, SD 57790

605-279-2343

ENTERED
Office of the Secretary

NOV 16 2000

Part of
Public Record

Signed:

Rodney RennerDate: November 2, 2000