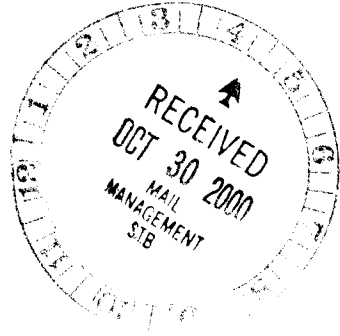


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October 25, 2000



Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
STB Finance Docket No: 33407
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

ATTN: Victoria Rutson
Environmental Project Manager
Environment Filing

RE: DM&E RAILROAD

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Please accept this letter as my objection to DM&E Railroad's plans to increase the train traffic through Pierre, South Dakota, without use of a bypass. I would strongly favor a bypass being utilized for our town. I have a business located downtown Pierre and the increased train travel would have a serious impact on both my clients' ability to access my office as well as my ability to travel throughout town for appointments as necessary.

According to statistics cited in the Pierre Capital Journal on Wednesday, October 11, 2000, Pierre has several of the busiest railroad intersections in the state of South Dakota. It is my understanding that these numbers were the same numbers reviewed by Frederic R. Harris, Philadelphia, which developed DM&E's initial rail/highway grade crossing plan. With nearly 40 trains being proposed to travel through the Pierre area on a daily basis, it would create a very harsh business environment for my clientele as well as myself.

Additionally, it is my understanding that your draft environmental impact statement cited a new bridge as a potential danger to river traffic. The river traffic in Pierre is restricted to pleasure crafts or fishing boats. I know from being an owner of both a

October 25, 2000

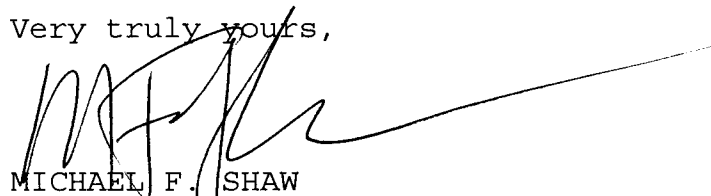
Page 2

fishing boat and a pleasure craft that an additional bridge would pose no danger to either local boaters or boaters visiting the area. Any such claim is simply untenable.

Please keep in mind that I am in no way opposed to DM&E's proposed upgrade, but am simply opposed to not having a local bypass for the Pierre/Fort Pierre area.

I certainly hope that you will consider these comments in your decision.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. F. Shaw', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MICHAEL F. SHAW

1115 North Central Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501