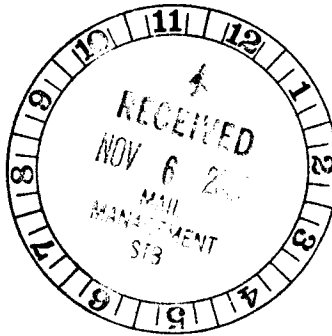


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November 1, 2000

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

To Whom It May Concern:

We are expressing our appreciation for all the work done on the draft environmental impact statement on the proposed Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad expansion project.

We fully support the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad expansion project. We believe that the draft environmental impact statement was completely fair and support promptly moving forward on the project.

We believe this project is vital for the future of South Dakota and our nation. South Dakota is a rural agricultural state and this project would tie us more directly to the world. It appears that we should be able to solve any environmental and safety problems that may exist considering all the problems that the U.S. has found solutions for in the past.

We encourage you to continue to take positive action on this project in the final environmental statement. We are vitally interested in the future of our state and nation. Thank you for your continued support. We are excited about this great project.

Sincerely,

Elaine R. Loesch

Ivan and Elaine Loesch
265 - 13th, S.W.
Huron, South Dakota 57350