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Office of the Secretary
Case Control unit
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Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW
Washington DC 20423-0001

The Environment Impact Statement doesn't address all of the concerns citizens have with the DM&E railroad's "private works" expansion project.

The City of Owatonna will be doubly impacted – not only will train traffic increase from three coal trains per day to 37 coal trains per day, the proposed loop considered for the south side of town will enable trains to change directions passing through our community twice.

Please consider the following:

- As a nation shouldn't we be looking at alternative cleaner forms of energy than coal? DM&E hopes to raise \$1.4 billion in private financing to move forward. Funding other forms of energy would be a better use of those dollars for the entire country.
- Should railroads be allowed to enrich themselves at the expense of communities? There is nothing good for the towns in the path of this project. Quality of life will suffer (increased noise, inconvenience, stopping emergency vehicles, pollution, and environmentally).
- There are people with homes bordering railroad tracks who want to sell and can't since this expansion plan was announced. I suggest that this project will affect the property value of every homeowner in the affected communities. Who would want to move into a town that has 37-coal trains running through it per day?
- If this project is approved, the railroad should be required to build bypasses around communities for the following reasons:
 - It is clearly cities that have the most people and property affected.
 - A train does not have to blow its whistle as often in the country.
 - Logically, freeway builders never consider building super highways through communities. Kevin Schieffer refers to his project as a "super highway of coal trains." Why should he be allowed to run it through the middle of towns?
 - Should taxpayers be required to cover any of the cost for any portion of an upgrade when they get no benefit from it?

Communities no longer need trains to survive. We join the ranks of people continuing to fight this project in its entirety so no one has to put up with the drastic changes that will come. These trains are not intended for corn or grain, but "coal" and "coal" alone.

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