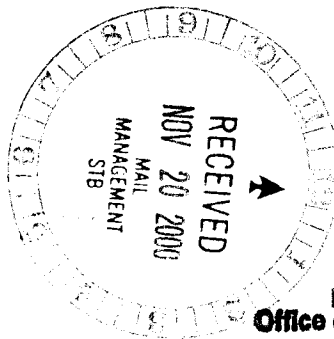


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November 17, 2000

Vernon Williams, Secretary
1925 K Street NW 7th floor
Washington, DC 20423



ENTERED
Office of the Secretary

RE Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad Corporation

NOV 22 2000

Dear Secretary Williams:

Part of
Public Record

I received the copy of the EEI indicating that they felt that the STB has no jurisdiction in construction of by passes because of perceived environmental consequences. That convinced me of the profit motive for this request in its entirety.

If you hear this argument, we are led to conclude that the STB really belongs to a previous era when business was unregulated for the common good. We go back to banking failures, stock market crashes, cycles of boom and bust without regulations, endeavors to corner the market or to engage in unfair competition at every possible event. We have come to balance free enterprise with the value of the common good. Our whole financial house depends on this continued understanding. Now, this appeal would ask you to set all of that aside.

I have listened to the arguments. There are some values to some communities along the DM&E route. But coal gets to the electric producers by the Union Pacific and the Burlington Northern. The coal users would benefit from cheaper transportation of the coal and the DM&E would benefit from the rebuilding of their railroad for coal transportation. They have supply and demand.

But in Rochester, MN, the common good is not served. All along the way there are environmental considerations. There are human inequities. There are huge tax payer costs for the benefit of two industries - and if pollution is considered - at the expense of the common good.

All of this leads me to ask that you say no to the whole request to bring coal from Wyoming to Minnesota via the DM&E railroad.

Sincerely,

Bruce Buller
1420 City View Court N E
Rochester, MN 55906

507 - 287 - 6707