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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

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Public Record

January 11, 2001

Boys and Girls Club of Pierre, Inc.
PO Box 533, 110 South Ree Street
Pierre, SD 57501



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

Members of the Surface Transportation Board:

The Board of the Boys and Girls Club of Pierre, Inc. have discussed the issues surrounding the DM&E railroad's proposed expansion plan and have come to agreement that we are in favor of the railroad expansion, but we do support a plan to build a bypass around our communities.

We understand that the DM&E railroad is promoting a plan to improve, to expand and to greatly increase rail traffic through South Dakota from Wyoming to eastern states. It is our Board's opinion and agreement that this increased rail traffic will present unacceptable economic, environmental and safety issues within our communities of Pierre and Ft. Pierre. The Board's primary concern obviously stems from the safety issues for the children and youth of our communities. A majority of our kids do walk to the Club on a daily basis when they are dismissed from school. Our club building also leases classroom and office space to Headstart (a.k.a. Oahe Child Development Center). Therefore, kids and youth are in our facility from 8:00 am to 10:00 p.m. on weekdays and 10:00 am to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Our club building, located at 110 South Ree Street, physically sits approximately thirty yards from the railroad tracks and the parking lot parallels the railroad tracks. There is only one entrance and exit to the building and this is through the approach off Ree Street. Currently, whenever trains do go by, this causes vehicles to backup on both sides of the tracks. Also, we have a concern regarding our accessibility to the hospital or emergency should the need ever arise that one of our kids would be required to be taken there. The club's physical location would be completely "cut off", in all directions, to access the hospital located at 800 East Dakota Avenue / East Sioux Avenue.

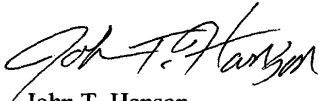
The Boys and Girls Club of Pierre, Inc. therefore finds it necessary to go on record requesting that the Surface Transportation Board please require that any such authorization permitted for DM&E unit coal trains be required to bypass the cities of Pierre and Fort Pierre.

Surface Transportation Board
Page 2



We appreciate your consideration to this request and thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


John T. Hanson
President

cc: Senator Tom Daschle
Senator Tim Johnson
Representative John Thune
Honorable Gary L. Drewes, Mayor City of Pierre
Rick Jorgensen, CEO Pierre Area Chamber of Commerce
Boys and Girls Club of Pierre, Inc. Board Members