

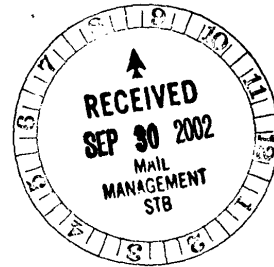
FARMERS ELEVATOR COMPANY

AREA CODE 309

TEL. 456-3600

SCIOTA, ILLINOIS

206311



Hon. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: STB Docket No. AB-⁴⁴⁸~~449~~ (Sub-No. 2X)

Dear Mr. Williams:

As a shipper served by SF&L Railway, Inc., I received a copy of its Petition seeking approval to abandon the La Harpe-to-Peoria railroad line, and I would like to comment on it.

SF&L took over operation of the line in December 2001, and, generally, I have been well satisfied with the service it has rendered. Its representatives have met with me from time to time and have tried to satisfy my railroad transportation needs. In fact, I have shipped more grain per month, on average, since SF&L began operating the line than I did the preceding year.

I, however, can understand SF&L's wanting to abandon the line. The loss of the overhead traffic of the Keokuk Junction Railway Co. has had a significant impact on the SF&L. I have no reason to question the figures in its Petition and agree SF&L should be allowed to abandon the line to stop its losses.

Nevertheless, I would like to continue to receive railroad service, and, if someone else were willing to try to operate the La Harpe-to-Peoria railroad line, as, for example, KJRY, I would hope the Board would act promptly and favorably on its application.

Sincerely yours,

William W. Edwards

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cc: Mr. Steven J. Van Wagenen

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