

March 21, 2006
Via E-Filing

Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: STB Ex Parte 661
1925 K. Street NW
Washington, DC 2043-0001

RE: Ex Parte 661 – Rail Fuel Surcharges

The North Dakota Grain Dealers Association (NDGDA) hereby requests 20 minutes time at the hearing in this proceeding scheduled for May 11, 2006.

The NDGDA has been active on the rail fuel surcharges matter with railroads serving this state and with both state and federal officials. North Dakota leads the nation in the production of Hard Red Spring Wheat and Durum Wheat. Wheat raised in the Northern Plains has been impacted more heavily by fuel surcharges than other crops and other regions due to the usually higher freight rates. NDGDA is positioned to address this severe impact on its members and the farmers they directly serve. Thank you.

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