



CITY OF RAPID CITY

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September 12, 2013

Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington DC 20423-0001

RE: Petition of the State of South Dakota - Finance Docket No. 35081

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

I write to support the State of South Dakota's petition effort to require Canadian Pacific Railway to demonstrate compliance with the commitments it made for capital improvements and safety compliance for its railroad lines in South Dakota.

Rapid City is located in Pennington County in western South Dakota, at the eastern gateway to the Black Hills.. It is the second largest city in South Dakota, and is the economic center of western South Dakota. Rapid City contains wholesale, retail, and commercial centers that serve a trade area of over 450,000 people within 200 miles of our fair city. Our community and its economy depend on the rail services provided by the Canadian Pacific Railway to deliver their materials and products and to receive shipments from outside the State of South Dakota.

The Canadian Pacific Railroad owns and operates the only west to east statewide railroad service which provides service to eastern South Dakota and beyond to the central and eastern United States, especially the major grain markets and commercial manufacturing centers. Canadian Pacific also owns and operates the railroad line from Colony, Wyoming to Rapid City, South Dakota, which provides rail service to ship bentonite from the mines at Colony across South Dakota to eastern markets. Many businesses, both agricultural and commercial, depend upon reliable rail services to serve their needs in Rapid City, and the maintenance and improvement of the Canadian Pacific line from Rapid City to Tracy, Minnesota, is vital to its continued operation.



The State of South Dakota has petitioned the Surface Transportation Board to require the Canadian Pacific Railway to demonstrate compliance with the commitments it made for capital improvements and safety compliance on the track located in South Dakota that it purchased from Dakota Minnesota and Eastern Railroad (DM&E). As Mayor of Rapid City, I support the Petition in its entirety, and I wholly endorse the prayer for relief as set forth therein. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Sam Kooiker, Mayor
Rapid City, South Dakota

cc: Hon. Dennis Daugaard
Hon. John Thune
Hon. Tim Johnson
Hon. Kristi Noem
West River Rail Association