



**Supporting
Organizations**

Alliant Energy
American Chemistry
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Blandin Paper Company
Dairyland Power Cooperative
East River Electric Power Cooperative
Freeborn-Mower Cooperative
Services
Grand Rapids Area Chamber
of Commerce
Great River Energy
Hibbing Area Chamber of Commerce
Lyon-Lincoln Electric Co-op
MN Association of Cooperatives
McNeilus Steel
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers
Minnesota Farmers Union
Minnesota Grain and
Feed Association
Minnesota Forest Industries
Minnesota Power
Minnesota Rural Electric
Association
Minnesota Soybean Growers
Association
Minnesota Valley REC
Minnesota Municipal
Utilities Association
Ottertail Power Company
People's Cooperative Services
Renville-Sibley Co-op
Tri-County Electric Cooperative

January 25, 2008

Public Utilities Commission
121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

Dear Commissioner Pugh:

Thank you for your endorsement of S. 953 intended to reform the Surface Transportation Board, who in our opinion, has grossly misplaced its mission to protect captive shippers from monopolistic pricing imposed by the rail industry. Members of Gopher CURE (Consumers United for Rail Equity) are also active supporters of HR 2151, the companion measure to S. 953, which is sponsored by House Transportation Chairman Jim Oberstar. To date, only Congressman Kline and Ellison and Congresswoman Bachman have yet to endorse that measure. We would be, again, most appreciative if you could send similar letters to those three Minnesota House Members.

Currently the U.S. Senate is poised to schedule S. 772 to impose anti-trust statutes on the rail industry. This measure is particularly crucial as it would allow, among other things, the Justice Department to review the acquisition of the DM&E railroad by the Canadian Pacific. Currently that oversight rests solely in the hands of the STB. Your January 23rd letter accurately reflects your dubious support of that board's competency.

Again, on behalf of the Members of Gopher CURE, we are exceptionally appreciative to you for your support for rail reform which, according to the Consumer Federation of America, is costing each American family some \$300 annually.

Sincerely,

Mark Glaess
Chairman

Cc: Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary