



**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 Rhea:

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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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