



## ***Media Release***

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MAC applauds Juhnke for rail customer resolution**

ST. PAUL, Minn. (July 21, 2008) – The Minnesota Association of Cooperatives (MAC) applauds Minnesota state Representative Al Juhnke (DFL – Willmar) for his support of rail customers by authoring and championing a resolution that supports pending federal rail customer legislation. The resolution was successfully adopted by state legislators attending the Midwestern Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments, meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota, last week.

The legislation supported by the resolution would address the railroads' outrageous rail rates and unreliable service as well as the complacent attitude of the Surface Transportation Board (STB), the industry's regulatory body whose laissez faire attitude has led to an industry rife with these monopoly abuses.

"MAC thanks Representative Juhnke for his leadership on this important issue," said Amy Fredregill, MAC vice president. "Minnesotans are being hard hit by the increased costs experienced by captive rail shippers. Our state's farmers are typically members of the rural electric co-ops that are experiencing much higher rates due to the railroads increasing the cost of coal transportation. Consumers in turn are being forced to cover these increased costs."

The Consumer Federation of America estimates the 'cost of captivity' at \$300 annually for every family in the United States. States represented in the Midwestern Legislative Conference are: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

MAC serves Minnesota's cooperatives owned by more than 3.4 million residents by providing lobbying, education, public relations, and technical services for a wide variety of cooperatives including farm supply, health, dairy marketing, consumer, credit, livestock marketing, telephone, electric, housing, insurance, cable communications, worker-owned cooperatives, and more. The Minnesota Association of Cooperatives is headquartered in St. Paul, Minn. For more information about MAC, visit [www.wfcmac.coop](http://www.wfcmac.coop).

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