Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 24, 2014

Mr. Daniel R. Elliott III
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman Elliot:

We write in regards to the service delays Dairyland Power Cooperative (Dairyland Power) is experiencing at its Genoa power plant and ask for your assistance in resolving this matter. Our constituents depend on the electricity generated at Dairyland Power's Alma and Genoa, Wisconsin power plants.

As you know, a wide range of commodity shippers have experienced rail delays in the last year. Dependable rail service is critical to all commodities, and congestion drives up the costs of products and hurts local economies. We recognize the number of challenges facing railroads, including weather and the recent increased demand for crude oil, and we appreciate the steps the Surface Transportation Board (STB) has taken to address these delays.

In the recent weeks, we have received concerning reports regarding Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation (BNSF) service delays. According to Dairyland Power, BNSF has not met their obligations to deliver fuel shipments to the Hendricks, Iowa coal harbor that serves their Genoa power plant site. Dairyland Power has stated the lack of service to the Hendricks' harbor has put their coal supply at a perilous level.

In the past, BNSF has committed to escalate and focus resources when a customer is facing a severe service issue that could halt operations. This commitment is commendable, and we believe it is a starting point for solving these current service delays. To facilitate communication about this problem and coordination of possible solutions, we believe STB leadership is needed.

Hence, we ask that the STB work with BNSF, Dairyland Power Cooperative, and our offices to quickly resolve these delays at the Genoa plant and ensure the stability of the electric grid in the Midwest region. Our offices would be happy to provide whatever assistance is needed to help this issue come to a resolution.

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Please contact Carina Marquez-Barrientos with Mr. Walz at carina.marquez@mail.house.gov or Natalie Mamerow with Mr. Kind at natalie.mamerow@mail.house.gov if you need more information.

Sincerely,

Tim Walz
Member of Congress

Ron Kind
Member of Congress