

# MVRRRA

Minnesota Valley Regional Rail Authority  
.....5 Counties.....1 Team.....1 Dream!

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February 26, 2009

Congressman Collin Peterson  
2211 Rayburn – House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: 2010 Appropriations Request for MVRRRA -- \$10M

Dear Congressman Peterson:

On behalf of Minnesota Valley Regional Rail Authority, I want to thank you for your support and interest in our rail line and its economic impact to southern Minnesota.

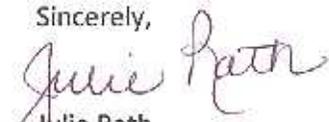
We are submitting an appropriations request for \$10M for 2010 for continued financial support for our rehabilitation of our 94.7 miles of track. I refer to our rail line as the "Minnesota River Valley Renewable Energy Transportation Rail Corridor". With Carver County on the east end and Yellow Medicine on the west end, this corridor represents a diverse population base, economic base, and great opportunities for all the communities along the line and our neighboring counties who do not have direct access to shipping via rail. The MVRRRA Commissioners appreciate your time and interest in our rail line, our rail corridor, and operation and may be stopping in your office in DC in the near future to visit with you.

With the diversity of current shippers and commodities already being hauled via rail, the urgency to complete the rehab is greater than ever. Each year that this rehab project takes, it actually is slowing down further development of our region. Our initial rehab allowed us to improve the rail with ballast, ties, tamping, and some rail replacement. Only 10-12 miles of the current 94.7 miles of track has been rehabbed with 115 rail, the rest of the rail is from 1912 and allows our train to travel only at 7 mph with a maximum 25-car train. We need to get up to 25 mph to allow for 110-car unit trains to move ethanol, DDGS, and other commodities safely, efficiently, and timely to the marketplace. With continued federal and state funding support for our publicly owned rail road line, we will have the ability to attract new business to locate along the line due to safety and timely-delivery of goods and services.

Currently there are three projects under consideration – one is a biogas production facility and the second project is a gasification facility working in conjunction with Central Bi-Products in Redwood Falls. Just these two project alone will create a minimum of 50-75 new direct jobs and approximately that same number of indirect jobs. There is a new warehouse distribution center going up in Winthrop which will be creating 15-20 new jobs. These are the projects we know are on the drawing board. More companies will be attracted to our corridor once we are running at 25 mph ...the entire 94.7 miles.

Thank you for your consideration in bringing forward our appropriations request. We are very appreciative of the federal funding we have received in the past through the efforts of our Minnesota Congressional delegation and Senators.

Sincerely,

  
Julie Rath  
MVRRRA Administrator