State of Minnesota
House of Representatives

The eighteenth meeting of the Transportation Committee was called to order by the Chair, Rep. Henry J. Kalis, on Friday, October 20, 1989, at 9:45 a.m. in the Armory, Luverne, Minnesota. This meeting was part of the Southwestern Minnesota Mini-Session.

Members present:

Seaberg	Wagenius
Steensma	Waltman
Tunheim	Kalis, Chair

Also present was Senator Gary DeCramer, District 27.

Members absent:

Begich, excused	McLaughlin, excused
Brown, excused	Morrison, excused
Carlson, D., excused	Olson, E., excused
Dauner, excused	Olson, K., excused
Dempsey, excused	Orenstein, excused
Henry, excused	Pellow, excused
Johnson, A., excused	Richter, excused
Kelso, excused	Uphus, excused
Lasley, excused	Valento, excused
Lieder, excused	Vellenga, excused
McDonald, excused	Welle, excused

There were about 35 people in attendance at this hearing, including students from Luverne High School.

The Chair stated that the committee was here to listen to the concerns of the area.

Rep. Steensma, District 27B, thanked the committee for having a hearing in Luverne and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Senator DeCramer also gave a word of thanks and welcome.

Rural rail transportation was on the agenda. Providing information on this topic were:

Allen Sleiter, Rock Co. Commissioner; Chair, Buffalo Ridge Railroad
Richard Shaw, General Manager, MN Valley Transportion Co., Inc., S.W.; General Manager, Buffalo Ridge Railroad
Larry Wood, Chair of the Board, Minnesota Valley Railroad, Inc.
Harry Russell, Nobles Co. Commissioner; stating that the Buffalo Ridge Railroad would never pay its own way, will need state's help.
James Browne, Rail Programs Unit, Rail Planning & Programs Section, Office of Railroads and Waterways, MN Department of Transportation
Dave Hohenstein, Marshall; Harvest States Cooperative
B. J. VanderKooi, Attorney; had been active in the Buffalo Ridge Railroad acquisition

Also testifying with a different concern was:

Fred Worden, Lyon Co. Commissioner; voicing a concern with the County State Aid funding mechanism

All those testifying responded to questions. Midway through the meeting a video tape of Channel 11 KARE's special on the Buffalo Ridge Railroad was viewed.

Meeting adjourned.

Kathleen Bruss
Committee Secretary

Henry J. Kalis
Rep. Henry J. Kalis, Chair