

To the Panel

I am writing to your panel again to request your attention to an issue which, while it has a history of concern, has recently become a matter of extreme urgency. As you are aware, this past summer Canadian National Railways delisted fifty-three public producer car loading sites, and has publicly declared that they will begin to dismantle them this spring. The disappearance of these sites, coupled with the removal of fifty-five other sites since mid 2006, will slash the number available sites for farmers to access local rail transportation by over one-third within the last four years.

Over the past several months I have been engaged in an attempt to prevent this potential disaster from striking Western Canada. I am currently involved in a Level of Service Complaint against CN with the Canadian Transportation Agency, but have had both my request for a moratorium on site delistings and dismantlings refused, as well as my attempt to have the issue of all fifty-three sites dealt with in a joint fashion. I have been allowed to argue for the one site, (Allan, Saskatchewan) which personally affects me.

It is my belief, and that of many others, that it is unacceptable to allow the railways to have the ability to unilaterally decide the fate of public producer car loading sites, with little recourse for farmers to have a say in the outcome. This is fundamentally an issue of service, albeit on the scale of individual cars. In order for our rail transportation system to function for the good of all Canadians, we must look at what best suits the needs of our citizens, not just the railways.

I am making a formal submission to your panel to ask that you examine this issue in your deliberations. I am including a document that I believe will explain my position in greater detail, and give further background to this vitally important matter.

Thank you for your attention to this concern, and I look forward to hearing from you. Please contact me if you have any questions or require any clarifications.

Cam Goff
Hanley, Saskatchewan