

# NEWS from DM&E

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## ***DAKOTA, MINNESOTA & EASTERN RAILROAD CORPORATION***

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **STRONG SD and MN OPPOSITION TO MAYO ANTI-RAIL LAWSUIT**

#### ***South Dakota and Minnesota Supporters of DM&E Project Speak Out***

SIOUX FALLS – Approximately 60 Minnesota and South Dakota organizations today filed to intervene in a lawsuit filed by Mayo Clinic and the city of Rochester. The group of petitioners is joining in the litigation because they want to see a pending South Dakota and Minnesota rail renewal project succeed as soon as possible. The group is comprised of farm groups, cities, economic development organizations, and others. The papers were filed in the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals in Minneapolis this afternoon.

55 of 56 affected communities in the two states support the DM&E rail project. Only Rochester, at the urging of Mayo Clinic, is opposed.

“We have been astounded by the overwhelming and intense response of supporters,” said DM&E President & CEO Kevin V. Schieffer. “We sent out a letter last week, and the phones lit up instantly. This is clearly the tip of the iceberg in terms of supporters. I think a lot of that has to do with frustration over Mayo and Rochester,” Schieffer said. “These groups see the overwhelming benefits for the region in terms of jobs, better ag prices, economic development and fundamental infrastructure improvements. They are frustrated that one entity seems to think it is more important than the rest of the region.”

Examples of those filing to oppose Mayo and Rochester in Minnesota include the Minnesota Farm Bureau, the Minnesota Farmers Union, Minnesota Grain and Feed Association, Minnesota Agri-Growth Council, Southern (Minnesota) Grainbelt Shippers Association, Winona County Farm Bureau, City of Springfield, MN, City of New Ulm, MN, City of Lewiston, MN, City of Tracy, MN, City of Lake Benton, MN, City of Stockton, MN, City of Sanborn, MN, City of Cobden, MN, and others.

South Dakota cities and organizations include the SD Farmers Union, the SD Farm Bureau, the South Dakota Cities of Pierre, Highmore, Huron, Wolsey, DeSmet, Philip, Miller, Wall, Midland, Ree Heights, SD Chamber of Commerce, Greater Huron Economic Development Corporation, SD Soybean Producers, SD Corn Growers, SD Wheat Growers, SD Association of Cooperatives, SD Feed & Grain Association, and others.

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