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October 26, 1999

Mr. Michael Sussman  
Strategic Rail Finance  
4100 Main Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19127

Dear Michael:

Thank you for talking with me last week about the financing issues facing the Class II and III railroads. I appreciate you taking the time to explain the distinctions between the types of railroads and the financing challenges that are confronting the growth and development of the shortline railroads.

The Congressional briefing you sponsored last winter was very informative and did an excellent job of highlighting the issues surrounding growth in the shortline railroad industry. As you are aware, that is how I became aware of the financing difficulties confronting the railroads. I encourage you to continue your efforts aimed at educating Congress.

If there is any information I can provide you about development in the Upper Mississippi River basin, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ted Illston  
Upper Mississippi River Project Director