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 Amory, Luverne, Minnesota. This meeting was part of the Southwestern Minnesota Mini-Session.

Members present: Seaberg Steensma Tunheim

Wagenius Waltman Kalis, Chair

Also present was Senator Gary DeCramer, District 27.

Members absent: Begich, excused Brown, excused Carlson, D., excused Daumer, excused Dempsey, excused Henry, excused Johnson, A., excused Kelso, excused Lasley, excused Lieder, excused McDonald, excused

McLaughlin, excused Morrison, excused Olson, E., excused Olson, K., excused Orenstein, excused Pellow, excused Richter, excused Uphus, excused Valento, excused Velenga, excused Weile, 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 Shew, General Manager, MN Valley Transportation 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.

Committee Secretary

Rep. Henry J. Kalis, Chair