



**FALL RIVER COUNTY
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Fall River County Courthouse
906 North River Street
Hot Springs, South Dakota 57747
Phone: (605) 745-5130, Fax: (605) 745-6835

March 20,2025

Amy McBeth
Regional Assistant Vice President Public Affairs – East
80 44th Ave NE
Minneapolis, MN 55421
763-782-3212
amy.mcbeth@bnsf.com

Dear Amy,

The history of Fall River County is intertwined with the history of the railway now operated by BNSF. Many of the residents of Fall River County have retired after a career with your illustrious railroad. We are currently under the impression that perhaps BNSF is going to discontinue their stop in Edgemont, South Dakota. This would cause a great deal of economic hardship for your employees who are in Edgemont and would have to move their lives and families and go to either Gillette, WY or Alliance, NE as well as for Fall River County as a whole. You have been actively maintaining and even enhancing your operations in Edgemont, for instance, around 2017, BNSF undertook significant upgrades to the Edgemont yard, including replacing rail and adding track capacity, with plans to introduce additional yard jobs to manage and switch out freight trains.

We can't emphasize enough, at this time, the importance of having a large industry like BNSF to help our county's economic development. We would like an opportunity to at least discuss why you were considering discontinuing a stop at Edgemont and why it is important for your company operations to remain in Fall River County.

If you are able to be dissuaded or we can have input into your decision in keeping a stop in Edgemont, please consider this a request from the Fall River County Commissioners to engage in conversation about this vital industry for Fall River County.

Sincerely,

Joe Falkenburg,
Fall River County Commission Chairman

Deb Russell,
Vice-Chairwoman

Joe Allen, Commissioner

Les Cope, Commissioner

Sandra Wahlert
Commissioner