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Oct. 9, 2000
Beulah, ND 58523

Docket Management Facility
US Department of Transportation
Room pl-401 400 Seventh Street SW
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Ref. Docket Number OST-200-8013 - 20

Dear Sirs,

I would like to comment on the proposed time change that you are considering for Mercer County in North Dakota. I have been a businessman in Beulah, ND for the past 23 years. My home office is located in Madison Wisconsin, which is on Central Time. A lot of the underwriters I work with go to work at 7:00 AM Central and leave work at 3:00 PM Central. I normally open my office at 8:00 AM Mountain and close at 5:00 PM Mountain. Between the hours of 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM Mountain, I find it very hard to communicate with anyone because of conflicting lunch hour schedules. What it all boils down to, is that I only have 4 hours during my working day to communicate with my home office which makes it very difficult for me to do business.

On a personal basis, I would also like to add that the nearest trade center to Mercer County is Bismarck ND, our state's capital. Bismarck is also on Central Time. As a result, we always have to leave very early in the day to conduct business out of town. This argument also holds true for the children in Mercer County, who participate in sports. The bulk of their schedule is with teams that are on Central Time, meaning that they have to miss one extra hour in the classroom every time they leave for a road game.

I strongly urge you to grant us the opportunity to change our time zone from Mountain to Central. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Gary Miller

Gary Miller
Gary Miller Agency Inc.