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One Page Broadcast Fax

To: North Dakota Elevator Managers and all Allied Members

**Free Webinar Available re The Impact of Railroad Market Power on Rail Shippers ~
Establishing the Way Forward on Rail Issues** Wednesday March 4 at 1 p.m. Central Time.
Invitation extended by Escalation Consultants

Escalation Consultants says you are invited to participate in this webinar that will help establish the future direction of the rail industry. Your input during the webinar will document the impact of railroad market power over its customers' business to the media, to regulators and to Congress.

To document the commercial impact of railroad actions a confidential, survey will be conducted during the Webinar. Only aggregate results of the survey will be used. Individual survey answers will be held strictly confidential by Escalation Consultants. If you are interested you need to reserve your Webinar seat immediately at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/977903976>
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At the ND legislature:

HCR 3048, bonding study, got a 9-2 Do Pass recommendation the House Ag Committee on Friday. Reps Brandenburg and Schatz voted no. Some amendments suggested by Grain Dealers were added. More are in the works to make this a balanced study of elevator risks as well as producer risks, and to add some focus on ethanol plants and processors that have created recent concern.

Grain Dealers testified in Senate Appropriations for restoration of the full \$900,000 rail rate complaint fund in **HB 1008**, the PSC budget bill. The House had cut it to \$450,000. Grain Dealers also testified in Senate Appropriations for an additional person in the ND Ag Department budget, **HB 1009**, to cover increased phytosanitary work.

The canola checkoff has been amended into **SB 2208** to go up from three cents per cwt to four cents per cwt. Sunflowers are to go up the same. Flax is also in the bill to go up from two cents to three cents per bushel. Doubling the barley checkoff in **SB 2203** has had smooth sailing so far.

Proposals to lengthen the North Dakota legislative session are in hearing this week. Ideas like this have not gotten very far in the past.