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Van Buren May 6<sup>th</sup>/59

Soak Barker Esq  
Land Agent

Sir, Permit me  
to call your attention to a few matters  
of interest to this immediate vicinity,  
and, in connection therewith, what I deem  
for the best interest of the State.

Township Letter N. Range Two, W. C. L. S.  
contains a large tract of good settling land,  
which is not yet survey into lots. There is  
already quite a number of settlers <sup>unsurveyed</sup> on this ~~portion~~  
of the township; and I doubt <sup>not</sup> that were it surveyed  
into lots for settlement, that it would tend to  
its ~~the~~ more rapid occupation; ~~of the~~ and also  
tend to prevent the confusion and cutting  
of claims or improvements, consequent to the  
indiscriminate squatting where land is not lotted.

Township L. Range one, contains quite a large  
population, few of whom, I presume, have yet  
applied for their land. Recently I have  
conversed with a number of the settlers of that  
township who wish immediately to make ap-  
plication and give their notes for the land  
they occupy. Many of them would have paid

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for their land before this, had there been a local agent to advise with, and direct them in this matter. Should, "An Act to aid the Anroostock Railroad Company, increase the value and promote the sale and settlement of the publick lands," become a law, (and I doubt not that it will,) it will fall heavy on many of these settlers, unless they can, and do avail themselves of the liberal ~~terms~~ terms of our present ~~settling~~ settling law. But if this they will be precluded, (as I understand it,) should the above named Act become a law, unless they shall, ~~previously~~, have, previously, contracted for their lands.

Influenced by these considerations, I wish that you send me, by mail, some blank notes. If you will do so, I will assist such as are desirous of doing so, to forward their applications and notes to your office. It is also desirable that there should be a local agent for these two townships. Some of the settlers on L<sup>o</sup>. occupy, or pretend to occupy, two, three, and even four lots; whereas, they should understand that they cannot become the purchaser or occupier of but one lot.

I am &c. A. L. Richards