



Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
4822 Madison Yards Way, S903
Madison, WI 53705

Governor Tony Evers
Secretary Craig Thompson
wisconsindot.gov
Telephone: (608) 266-1114
FAX: (608) 266-9912
Email: sec.exec@dot.wi.gov

VIA E-FILING

301928

April 12, 2021

The Honorable Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W., Room #100
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
April 12, 2021
Part of
Public Record

Re: Surface Transportation Board Finance Docket No. FD 36504
*Fox Valley & Lake Superior Rail System, L.L.C. – Acquisition and Operation Exemption –
Lines of Wisconsin Central Ltd. in the State of Wisconsin*

Dear Ms. Brown:

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) supports the Wisconsin Central Limited (CN) sale of certain branch lines in Wisconsin to Watco Companies in the pursuit of improved service to Wisconsin's shippers. WisDOT has been concerned about rates and reliability of service for shippers on the affected lines and is supportive because of our understanding that this transaction will address these issues.

WisDOT supports the exemption process pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10105 as filed by CN and Watco, provided STB can thoroughly consider shipper comments and concerns in order to adequately ascertain impacts. For example, we were recently notified by shippers of some concerns, one of which is that apparently, neither Notice of Exemption identifies whether shippers on the lines to be acquired will continue to have the benefit of conditions imposed by the Board in the Board's 2001 decision in STB Finance Docket 34000, Canadian National - Control - Wisconsin Central. That decision granted CN control of Wisconsin Central subject to those conditions which remain in effect as to CN.

Additionally, regardless of whether the approval is via exemption or proceeding, WisDOT requests to be a party of record for each docket.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Thompson".

Craig Thompson
Secretary-designee

CC: Parties of Record