

F. J. Robers Co., Inc.
Intermodal Commodity Barge Terminal
P.O. Box 484 – 816 Bainbridge Street
La Crosse, WI 54602-0484

302097

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ATTENTION: Surface Transportation Board

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 36500
CP-KCS Potential Combination

FJ Robers Co Inc. hereby files this letter to express its concerns to the bid by CN to acquire KCS and re-iterate its support for the CP-KCS combination.

As expressed in our initial letter to the Board dated March 30th, 2021, we support swift approval of the CP-KCS combination because of the significant benefits the combination would bring, including expanded markets and port options, improved service options, and invigorated transportation competition. The combination of CP and KCS would provide greater market reach for our company which provides transload services.

By contrast, a CN acquisition of KCS would lead to a reduction in competition and deprive shippers of the many tangible benefits offered by the CP/KCS deal. Specifically, if CN were to acquire KCS, not only will we be deprived of the benefits on the CP/KCS deal, but we could also suffer a reduction of competitive options into growth markets like the Gulf Coast.

From our perspective, the only combination involving KCS that is in the public interest is the one that CP has proposed. Unlike the CP/KCS combination, the acquisition of KCS by CN would result in harm to competition because the two railroads today serve many locations and shippers in common. Indeed, they operate parallel lines between Baton Rouge and New Orleans and Eastern Mississippi; they both serve grain and other shippers in large swaths of the Midwest and Southern United States; and they both reach the port of Mobile, Alabama. Even more fundamentally, between the Upper Midwest and Gulf Coast, a CN/KCS combination would reduce the number of independent routing options from four to three.

We expect a combined CPKC network to offer seamless, single-line service that will improve our transportation options and provide a better alternative to the options that already exist. A CN-KCS combination would limit competitive carrier options to markets and ports south of Kansas City.

Respectfully submitted,


John Noyes

Owner & President
April 21st, 2021
CC: All Parties of Record