



Northern Plains Railroad

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Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C.

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

Northern Plains Railroad Inc., (NPR) operates a regional railroad in Minnesota and North Dakota that serves joint NPR/Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) shippers. Grain shipments represent by far the majority of the volumes moved on our line.

NPR previously expressed its support to the Surface Transportation Board (STB) for a CP-KCS combination in our letter of March 26, 2021. The STB is aware that the economy of the upper Midwest is dependent upon farming and crop production. Thousands of families derive their livelihood from the ability to grow wheat, soybeans, corn and other commodities – and in turn move them to market by rail. NPR together with CP's originating network in North Dakota is especially important to this agricultural economy in transporting goods to domestic and export markets. Expanding CP shipper access further to include attractive KCS destinations is a huge opportunity in particular for North Dakota farmers– a position also publicly supported by the largest shippers on our railroad.

In contrast to the proposed CN-KCS merger, the only combination involving KCS that is in the competitive interest of NPR shippers is that which CP has proposed. The availability of further routes via CP-KCS designed to penetrate markets in Texas and the Gulf of Mexico region for our agricultural products will provide NPR and North Dakota shippers with a significant new market development opportunity. This in turn will generate real growth, improve farm incomes, and help sustain the rural economy that NPR is part of.

Therefore, NPR 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. We continue to urge the Board's consideration for a swift approval of same.

NORTHERN PLAINS RAILROAD INC.

Jesse J. Chalich, President

CC: All Parties of Record

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