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Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001
eService@stb.gov

Dear Ms. Brown:

Re: FD 36514, Canadian National Railway Company, Grand Trunk Corporation, and CN's Rail Operating Subsidiaries—Control—Kansas City Southern, the Kansas City Southern Railway Company, Gateway Eastern Railway Company, and the Texas Mexican Railway Company

I am writing to express my support for CN's proposed acquisition of Kansas City Southern (KCS).

CN is a key part of Nova Scotia's economic development and trade infrastructure. The company employs 338 Nova Scotians and is continuously investing in our Province. CN's focus on operational streamlining and developing partnerships has been key for ensuring continued and improved market access for Nova Scotia businesses.

CN handles all rail-served containers imported and exported through the Port of Halifax. In addition, Halifax is the site of a significant Autoport where imported motor vehicles are distributed across North America.

CN is a key partner to the Port which has resulted in increased market access for Atlantic Canadian exports and service improvements. For example, CN and the Port have worked together to substantially reduce the dwell time for imported containers. In addition, the Halifax Port Authority continues to work closely with other key partners including the Halifax International Airport Authority, and several other private and public sector organizations with the common vision of promoting Halifax as the preferred entry point in North America. These strategic partnerships would enhance a CN-KCS merger by helping to connect to a vast transportation and logistics network with quick and cost-effective access to any major North American market. A combined CN-KCS would further improve market access in key markets in Canada, the U.S., Asia, Europe, and the Mediterranean. In addition, it would promote the single market access for Atlantic Canadian businesses and their international partners to trading nations under the Canada United States Mexico Agreement (CUSMA). Given that Nova Scotia businesses are small and medium sized businesses (SME's), for the majority, exporting is essential to their continued growth and success. This merger would prove beneficial to supporting their development and ability to contribute to the economy.

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown

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The nexus between the environment, economy, and equity is the focus of my government's agenda. We are aware of the significant advancements CN has made in this regard. Notably, they consume significantly less locomotive fuel than the industry average. The merger would increase flexibility to reduce emissions by allowing each mode to be used for the portion of the trip to which it is best suited. Thus, combined with the expected benefit to SMEs, we believe the merger supports this agenda.

Overall, we believe a CN-KCS merger will promote business in the CUSMA market, promote competition through connections to access points and gateway options, and further build on CN's track record of providing exemplary service. Our goal as a Province is to continue to pursue global trade opportunities. Strengthened logistical connections resulting from CN's proposed acquisition of KCS are critical to our future growth and success.

Sincerely,



Honourable Iain Rankin, M.L.A.
Premier of Nova Scotia

Copied to: Matt Simpson, msimpson@sidley.com