

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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August 30, 2022

Mr. Joshua Wayland
 Surface Transportation Board
 Environmental Filing, Docket No. FD 36500
 c/o VHB
 940 Main Campus Drive, Suite 500
 Raleigh, NC 27606

Dear Mr. Wayland,

The Scott County Board of Supervisors (Board) understands that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) is considering comments regarding the proposed acquisition of the Kansas City Southern (KCS) by the Canadian Pacific Railway Limited (CP). These considerations include the potential impacts this merger will have on those who live and work along the existing tracks where the daily number of trains will increase from 8 to 22. The Scott County Board of Supervisors has heard numerous concerns from our residents regarding the expected increase in train traffic through our county. Our comments and concerns are provided below.

Based on information provided by CP, it is understood that the additional trains will provide some economic benefit to Scott County's industrial business base and add job opportunities. The additional trains will reduce the number of trucks required to transport the same quantity of goods reducing wear and tear on highways, possibly decrease highway accidents and air emissions. We are also aware of other attributes that CP claims will be brought by this merger.

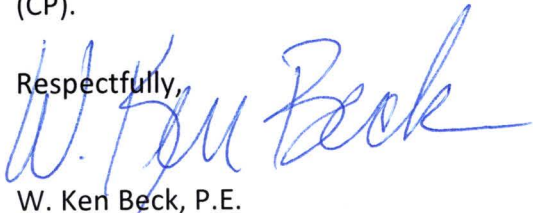
Despite the benefits provided by CP, they do not address nor offset the numerous concerns from our residents. Although these concerns have been raised by many that live along the track between LeClaire and Princeton, they are also shared by others throughout Scott County. These concerns include:

- Our residents have significant investments in their homes and businesses along the route. Although they have grown to tolerate the noise, vibrations, and inconvenience of the current trains, they never imagined the magnitude of the proposed train traffic when they bought their properties nor the increased disruption to their lives and businesses.
- The additional trains will impact the quality of life for many Scott County Residents. In particular, there are reportedly 15 private track crossings between Princeton and LeClaire serving around 60 homes located between the tracks and the Mississippi River. Since improvements to these crossings to qualify for a "Quiet zone" cannot be paid for by CP, they must be paid by the residents. The magnitude of funds necessary would be prohibitive. In addition, hundreds of homes and businesses are located west of and/or near the tracks that will also be impacted by the noise. CP acknowledges these facts.

- An increase in the number of trains will increase the likelihood of public safety issues such as pedestrian/vehicle accidents, tank car leaks, or even a derailment like the one in LeClaire in January 2020. For those homes and businesses located between the tracks and the river, how are persons to reach safety or obtain assistance after a derailment or other cause of a train stoppage? The river has been known to flood or freeze over in spots during winter; what are the safety precautions being taken to address these concerns and increased costs to residents and emergency providers? Although CP indicates trains can be moved or separated to accommodate an emergency, how long will that take when minutes could make a difference in a person's survival?
- Even though the additional trains may globally reduce air emissions/quality by reducing the number of trucks on the road, those living along the tracks will be negatively impacted.
- A reduction in the assessed values of properties along the tracks are expected, impacting the current owners. A reduction in assessed values will reduce the local tax base.
- A reduction in tourism is expected due to the access issues and noise, resulting in a reduction in the local option sales tax collected by the county and cities.

Because of these concerns, we strongly urge the STB to prioritize public safety, livability, the impact on personal properties, damage to properties, impact on businesses and tourism, and environmental health of residents and businesses along the current tracks throughout our county. For these reasons, we cannot support the merger of the Kansas City Southern (KCS) and the Canadian Pacific Railway Limited (CP).

Respectfully,



W. Ken Beck, P.E.
Chair – Scott County Iowa

Cc: Scott County Board of Supervisors
Congresswomen Mariannette Miller-Meeks
Senator Charles Grassley
Senator Joni Ernst
Mr. Andy Cummings – Canadian Pacific Railway