

JASON LEWIS
2ND DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON
WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2302

April 24, 2018

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Director Lucille Marvin
Office of Public Assistance, Government Affairs, and Compliance
Surface Transportation Board
395 E St, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Docket No. FD 36178
Docket No. FD 36177

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
April 25, 2018
Part of
Public Record

Dear Director Marvin,

As you may be aware, the Metropolitan Council (Met Council) recently filed an effort with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to acquire ownership of the Bass Lake and Kenilworth corridors in Hennepin County, MN. I request that the STB fully consider the impact this decision would have on my constituents before making a decision. I also ask that a more extensive public comment period be established in order to fully understand the impact the Met Council's request will have on our region.

Twin Cities & Western Railroad Company (TC&W) services my constituency and offers a direct link to major Class I carriers. In fact in 2017, Consolidated Grain & Barge Company (CBG), just one of the many stakeholders that use TC&W at the Port of Savage in my district, moved the equivalent of 10,000 truckloads of grain by rail. This represents trucks that would have increased road congestion throughout the city and suburbs of Minneapolis-St. Paul.

CBG recently expressed interest in expanding their local operations. However, making a decision that degrades the rail service offered to CBG and other stakeholders would not only harm any opportunity for expansion, but would jeopardize the current benefit they provide the region.

I am aware that TC&W and the Met Council were previously discussing acceptable terms for both parties. Unfortunately, it seems the STB process is being used to circumvent those negotiations. I would prefer that both parties, representing their individual constituencies, work together in an attempt to solve this issue without federal intervention. However, given the progression of the current STB process, I encourage the STB board to consider the full impacts of any decision and to provide an expanded opportunity for public comment prior to making a determination.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jason Lewis
Member of Congress