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April 23, 2018

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
April 24, 2018
Part of
Public Record

Re: Docket No. FD 36178, Metropolitan Council – Petition for Declaratory Order
Docket No. FD 36177, Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority – Acquisition
Exemption –
In Hennepin County, Minnesota

**LETTER IN SUPPORT OF TWIN CITIES & WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY'S
INITIAL REPLY REQUESTING THE BOARD TO SET A PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

Dear Ms. Brown:

My name is Charlie Threlkeld. I am the General Manager of Rail Transportation for Consolidated Grain & Barge Company (CGB). Consolidated Grain and Barge Company is the 5th largest grain company in the United States. We provide a market for our farmer customers at our 90+ grain elevators scattered throughout the Midwestern U.S.

One of our grain elevators is located in Savage, MN. This elevator is owned by Riverland AG. CGB has a put through agreement in place with Riverland AG. This location receives grain from grain elevators served by the Twin Cities & Western Railroad (TCWR). In 2017, CGB originated approximately 2500 car loads of grain from TCWR origins. This represents roughly 10,000 trucks that did not come into the Twin Cities area. We hope to expand our rail volume going forward.

It has come to our attention that the negotiations between the TCWR and the Metropolitan Council regarding operations over some segments of track owned by the Council have ceased. We support the need for increased light rail usage, but putting more trucks on the road to replace the commuter's automobiles is not the path forward.

Consolidated Grain & Barge Company urges the Board to set a procedural schedule in the above referenced proceeding (FD 36178) to permit public comment and a full hearing on Metropolitan Council's Petition seeking to acquire ownership of the Bass Lake and Kenilworth corridors in Hennepin County, Minnesota. The Board should also stay the Hennepin County rail Authority's ("HCRRA") request in FD 36177 to acquire the common carrier obligations for the line.

Respectfully submitted,

Via E-File to the STB:

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