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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
January 4, 2017
Part of
Public Record

Re: **Docket No. AB-43 (Sub-No. 189X)**
Illinois Central Railroad Company –
Abandonment Exemption – In Champaign County, Ill.

Dear Ms. Brown:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") and Topflight Grain Cooperative, Inc. ("TGC") jointly offer another in a series of status reports pursuant to a Director's Order issued in the above-captioned proceeding. This matter currently is in abeyance at the consent of the parties to allow for private negotiations to continue.

IC and TGC previously have reported on the status of discussions concerning the line segment that is the subject of this proceeding (the "Line"). Representatives of IC and TGC have postponed discussions concerning the Line in the past few months, but each side remains dedicated to a continued dialogue at this time. Although a final agreement has not yet been achieved, the parties are optimistic an arrangement may yet be negotiated that may preserve the Line. Accordingly, IC and TGC have agreed that this proceeding should remain in abeyance pending additional discussion.

IC and TGC therefore request that the Board's previously-issued abeyance order remain in place. The parties understand that they will be expected to supply a supplemental status report in April, barring a final agreement in the interim.

Respectfully submitted,



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cc: All parties of record