



Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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The Honorable Jason Lewis
United States House of Representatives
418 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Lewis,

Thank you for your letter regarding Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority – Acquisition Exemption – In Hennepin County, Minnesota, Docket No. FD 36177, and the related docket Metropolitan Council – Petition for Declaratory Order, Docket No. FD 36178. The Surface Transportation Board (STB) appreciates knowing your views on this matter.

As you know, the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority has filed a notice of exemption with the STB seeking authority to acquire an exclusive freight rail operating easement over 6.7 miles of rail line that is owned by Soo Line Railroad Company d/b/a/ Canadian Pacific. Relatedly, the Metropolitan Council (the Council) filed a petition for declaratory order requesting that the Board issue an order finding that the Council's acquisition of the rail trackage and the underlying real estate of those same lines will not require STB authorization. The Board has received numerous comments from interested parties in both dockets.

Because these proceedings are pending before this agency, I cannot comment on the merits of the cases. However, please be assured that the Board will carefully review and consider all comments filed. A copy of your letter has been placed in both dockets. If you or your staff have additional concerns, please contact me at (202) 245-0238.

Sincerely,

Lucille L. Marvin
Director