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via electronic filing

June 18, 2018

Cynthia Brown, Chief
Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

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Office of Proceedings
June 18, 2018
Part of
Public Record

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

Dear Ms. Brown:

The above-captioned proceedings raise important issues related to the availability and efficiency of freight rail service in and throughout southern Minnesota. In particular, the transactions proposed in these proceedings could potentially affect freight rail service to many area shippers that support the local economy and provide countless jobs in the region. These shippers include the following thirteen entities:

- Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative
- Central Region Cooperative
- Farmward Cooperative
- United Farmers' Cooperative
- Meadowland Cooperative
- Equity Elevator and Trading Company
- Western Consolidated Cooperative
- Heartland Corn Products
- Farm-a-Feed
- Step Saver Inc.
- LG Everist Inc.
- Agra Trading Corporation
- Pilot Travel Centers

The shippers listed above (the "TCW Shippers Coalition" or "Coalition") plan to participate in these proceedings, and respectively request that the Surface Transportation Board add them to the service list of each proceeding. All shippers in the Coalition are concerned about the impact of the proposed transactions on the provision of efficient, reliable, and cost-effective rail service via affected rail lines.

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Sincerely,



Sandra L. Brown

David E. Benz

*Counsel for Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar
Cooperative, and on behalf of the TCW Shippers
Coalition*

cc: all parties on service list (via U.S. mail, postage prepaid)
