



King Milling Company

115 S. Broadway • Lowell, MI 49331

Established 1890

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Office of Proceedings
July 03, 2017
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Public Record

July 3, 2017

VIA E-FILING

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration – Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W., Room 1034
Washington, D.C. 20024

Re: *Grand Elk Railroad, Inc. – Acquisition Exemption – Norfolk Southern Railway Company, Docket No. 36127*

Grand Elk Railroad, Inc. – Petition for Board Order Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 1321, Docket No. FD 36127 (Sub-No. 1)

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing on behalf of King Milling Company in response to the above-referenced proceeding. King Milling urges the Surface Transportation Board to act quickly and decisively to restore disrupted Grand Elk Railroad (“Grand Elk”) operations in Grand Rapids, MI. King Milling relies upon Grand Elk’s railroad transportation services, and we are harmed by the current railroad service disruption. We understand that Grand Elk is taking necessary legal action to restore its service in Grand Rapids in the face of another railroad’s obstruction. King Milling understands that the Board has the authority to order Grand Elk service restored quickly, and we have a vested interest in seeing that happen. Accordingly, your prompt attention to this matter is urgently requested.

King Milling is a flour milling business providing milled grains to large commercial bakeries, cereal companies and food processors. We source 100 cars per month of wheat that had moved over the Grand Elk line to our delivering carrier, the Grand Rapids Eastern Railway. King Milling has never had reason to believe that use of Grand Elk service would be disrupted without advance warning, particularly not without the Board permitting Grand Elk’s cessation of service in the first place. Because Grand Elk has been prohibited from accessing certain lines in Grand Rapids, despite years of operation over those lines, King Milling Company has had to abruptly move all its traffic to the CSXT with an immediate rate increase. In fact, if the STB is unable or unwilling to see to it that Grand Elk service is restored, we will be stuck with a

monopoly provider and will likely see poorer transportation service, additional rate increases and less responsive customer service.

That a short line operator such as Grand Elk could be forced for reasons of a contract dispute with another railroad to cease service on lines over which it has operated for several years is baffling. King Milling Company does not believe that the STB would or should sanction such service disruptions, or allow shippers that have come to depend upon Grand Elk to be deprived of railroad transportation.

King Milling Company looks forward to your prompt action in the above-referenced proceedings. We urge your expedited and favorable consideration of Grand Elk's petitions, and urge the STB to take all necessary action to restore our access to Grand Elk's railroad service as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



James M. Doyle
Senior Vice President
King Milling Company

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have caused the foregoing reply to be served upon all parties of record listed on the Surface Transportation Board's service list in the foregoing dockets (as those parties are listed on the STB's website as of this date) via USPS first-class service, postage prepaid, or via more expeditious means of delivery:


[name]

July 3, 2017