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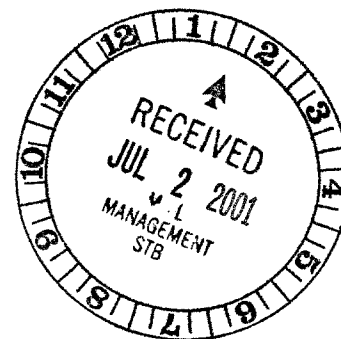
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JOHN ENGLER
GOVERNOR

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
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June 28, 2001



Mr. Vernon Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
STB Finance Docket No. 34000
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Williams:

An application has been filed with the Surface Transportation Board seeking authority for Canadian National Railway Company (CN) to acquire Wisconsin Central Transportation Corporation (WC) and its rail carrier subsidiaries. On behalf of the State of Michigan, I am writing in support of this proposed acquisition.

CN is a major rail carrier providing service in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. As a gateway to Canada, its service to the automobile industry and intermodal operations are particularly important to Michigan's economic strength and vitality. WC provides service in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. In particular, it provides essential service to our mining, forestry, and paper industries in an area characterized by long distances and relatively few businesses. We request that CN develop an operating plan that reflects the same strong presence and commitment in the Upper Peninsula as the WC has shown.

I encourage the Surface Transportation Board to approve the proposed acquisition and look forward to working with CN on implementation of additional improvements to the railroad system in Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Engler".

John Engler
Governor

JE/mhja