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CONSOLIDATED
GRAIN AND BARGE CO.

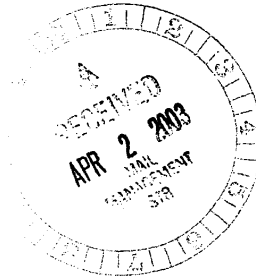
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Post Office Box 548 / Mt. Vernon, Indiana 47620

Southwind Maritime Centre / Bluff Road

March 26, 2003

207509



The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary STB
1925 K. Street NW
Washington, DC. 20423

RE: STB Docket No. AB-103 (Sub-No.-15) &
STB Docket No. AB-849

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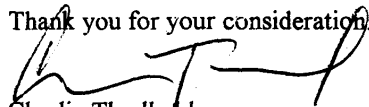
Dear Mr. Williams,

My name is Charlie Threlkeld and I am the General Manager of Rail Transportation for Consolidated Grain and Barge Company. Consolidated Grain and Barge is a regional grain company with 60 elevators located in the Midwest. 2 of our elevators are located on the KCS Railroad in Illinois. These elevators serve over 400 farmer customers. In a year's time, we will ship approximately 1200 cars of grain to Cargill's grain elevator in East St. Louis, IL.

The Illinois Department of Transportation is requesting that the KCS service to Cargill's elevator be abandoned so that a highway project can move forward. We respectfully request that this abandonment not be granted without satisfactory provisions being allowed for continued service of the Cargill elevator by the KCS. Otherwise, it will have a significant adverse impact on our business as well as our farmer customers.

I can appreciate the need for new roads but it should not come at the expense of our rail service.

Thank you for your consideration.


Charlie Threlkeld
General Manager-Rail Transportation

CC: Mr. Thomas J. Healey-KCS
Mr. William A Mullins-Troutman Sanders LLP