

**Kettle-Lakes Cooperative**

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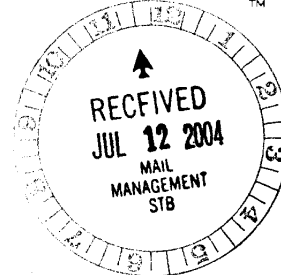
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211551

July 12, 2004

Mr. Roger Nober, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
1925 Kay Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



TRANSMITTED VIA FAX 1-202-565-9013

Re: Canadian National/Wisconsin Central LTD Abandonment in Ozaukee, Sheboygan and Manitowoc Counties,
Wisconsin
Docket # AB-303 (SUB-NO.27)

Dear Chairman Nober:

I write to you as general manager of Kettle Lakes Cooperative, which is a farm supply cooperative serving parts of Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Washington and Fond du Lac Counties. We have 700 farmer members.

Our organization has been actively promoting efforts to save the railroad which passes through our community.

We attended a forum in April, 2004 which was attended by not only business leaders from our community but officials from Wisconsin and Southern Railroad and officials from Ozaukee County and Sheboygan County. That meeting indicated a very strong interest in preserving the economic development potential which could come from a reliable and foreseeable rail service.

I do respectfully request that the Surface Transportation Board conduct oral hearings here in Wisconsin for purposes of permitting business and community leaders the opportunity to voice their concerns regarding the above-referenced proposed abandonment. Based upon the two meetings already held, we believe there would be a huge turnout of spokespersons and that much valuable information could be gleaned by the conduct of such oral hearings. Our organization would be happy to assist in arranging for facilities and other logistics necessary for the conduct of such oral hearings.

As one of the voices of the Random Lake area community, we urge action on the part of your department to either acquire the rail line in question or otherwise facilitate continued and reliable rail service.

Our cooperative and its members are very opposed to the abandonment of this rail line. We request an opportunity to attend an oral hearing located at a convenient place here in Wisconsin. A number of our staff, board members and producers would very much appreciate the opportunity to present in person testimony regarding the proposed abandonment.

I can be reached at 1-920-668-8561 ext. 21 and we appreciate your consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,

Norbert Schleicher
General Manager

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JUL 12 2004

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Public Record

cc: Mr. Vernon Williams, Secretary via fax 1-202-565-9019
Honorable Thomas E. Petri via fax 1-202-225-2356

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