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ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
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Part of
Public Record

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April 8, 2015

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, DC 20024

Re: **Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 46X),
Wisconsin Central Ltd. – Abandonment Exemption -- In Lake County, Ill.**

Dear Ms. Brown:

Please add to the record for the above-referenced proceeding the attached letter from the City of North Chicago, Illinois (“North Chicago” or the “City”) in support of the subject rail line abandonment petition for exemption. As background, the southernmost 0.6-mile section of the rail line that is the subject of this abandonment proceeding extends into North Chicago.

In the attached support letter, North Chicago states that it learned of Wisconsin Central Ltd.’s (“WCL”) abandonment plans from Lake County, Illinois. Although not included in WCL’s initial outreach effort in early November of 2014, the City has been in periodic contact with WCL concerning the proposed abandonment since December 18, 2014, and WCL served North Chicago with a copy of the E&HR reflecting the City’s feedback on January 29, 2015. Thus, WCL has complied with the Board’s advance notice requirements, and has afforded the City sufficient opportunity to offer its views on the proposed abandonment.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. Kind regards.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert A. Wimbish
Attorney for Wisconsin Central Ltd.

Attachment

cc: All parties of record; Charles W. Smith, Esq.

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April 1, 2015

Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E. Street, S.W., Room 1106
Washington DC 20423-0001

Re: Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 46X)
Wisconsin Central Ltd. - Abandonment
Exemption, Lake County, Illinois

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please be advised that this firm represents the City of North Chicago, a community in Lake County, Illinois in which approximately .6 miles of the proposed abandoned track lies. The City has had the opportunity to review Ms. Brodrick's letter of January 29, 2015 and documentation in support of the requested abandonment. The City of North Chicago supports the abandonment of this line since the City does not perceive that there is any public need for the track in question. The railroad has no North Chicago customers within the limits of the proposed abandonment. There are Union Pacific and WCL tracks in the area to handle any new industrial customers. The abandonment would clear the way for redevelopment of the area, which is situated along Lake Michigan.

The City would comment on footnote 1 of the Environmental Historical Report found on page 3 referencing the Lake County Board Chairman, Aaron Lawler's, suggestion that the City of North Chicago was not aware of the proposed abandonment. Mr. Lawler's statement was correct; but for Mr. Lawler forwarding the November 25, 2014 letter from WCL's attorneys to the City of North Chicago, the City might not have been timely advised of the proposed abandonment.

Since receiving Mr. Lawler's letter, the City, through my office, has been in contact with WCL, the City of Waukegan and the Lake County Department of Transportation. North Chicago's review of the situation has assured us that, far from being a negative, the

Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
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**Re: Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 46X)
Wisconsin Central Ltd. - Abandonment
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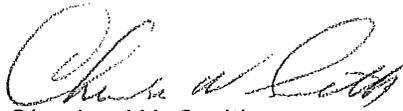
abandonment should create an opportunity to improve the area by directing a currently dormant facility toward redevelopment. The City intends to approach WCL about acquisition of the tract to be abandoned, and we are hopeful that our approach will be met with the same response that Waukegan has been accorded. If so, the communities and the railroad will be proud of the outcome.

Let me again state that the City of North Chicago has no objection to the proposed abandonment and looks forward to being able to work with the railroad, the County and the City of Waukegan to see that this property be put to a good public use going forward.

Should any questions exist, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

SMITH, LaLUZERNE & HARTMAN, LTD.



Charles W. Smith

CWS:sd

cc: Leon Rockingham, Jr.
Deborah Waszak
Ronald Lanz
Thomas Fitzgerald