

# FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive  
Suite 920  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500  
Fax: (312) 252-2400  
www.fletcher-sippel.com

ROBERT A. WIMBISH  
(312) 252-1504  
rwimbish@fletcher-sippel.com

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

March 14, 2016 240293

Ms. Cynthia Brown  
Chief, Section of Administration  
Surface Transportation Board, Office of Proceedings  
395 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
March 14, 2016  
Part of  
Public Record

Re: **Docket No. AB-43 (Sub-No. 189X)**  
**Illinois Central Railroad Company –**  
**Abandonment Exemption – In Champaign County, Ill.**

Dear Ms. Brown:

Illinois Central Railroad Company (“IC”) and Topflight Grain Cooperative, Inc. (“TGC”) jointly offer this status report as they have been directed to do pursuant to the Director’s July 10, 2015 Stamp Order issued in the above-captioned abandonment proceeding. This proceeding currently is being held in abeyance to facilitate negotiations.

The parties previously have reported jointly on the status of discussions. The parties have not yet reached an accord. They anticipate resuming substantive discussions later this month, and both are willing to permit this proceeding to remain in abeyance pending further talks.

Accordingly, IC and TGC request that the Board’s previously-issued abeyance order remain in place, pending further progress toward an agreement. The parties understand that they will be expected to supply a supplemental status report – assuming no final arrangement has been reached in the interim – on or before May 13, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert A. Wimbish  
Fletcher & Sippel LLC  
29 N. Wacker Dr., Ste. 920  
Chicago, IL 60606-2832  
(312) 252-1500  
(312) 252-2400 (fax)  
[rwimbish@fletcher-sippel.com](mailto:rwimbish@fletcher-sippel.com)  
Attorney for Illinois Central Railroad Company



Thomas F. McFarland  
Thomas F. McFarland, P.C.  
208 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1890  
Chicago, IL 60604-1112  
(312) 236-0204  
(312) 201-9695 (fax)  
[mcfarland@aol.com](mailto:mcfarland@aol.com)  
Attorney for Topflight Grain Cooperative, Inc.

cc: All parties of record