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MAS E. PETRI  
1st District Wisconsin

2462 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1906  
(202) 225-2476

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4906

1st District Office:  
FOND DU LAC, WI  
(920) 922-1180  
OSHKOSH, WI  
(920) 231-6333

July 12, 2004

Honorable Roger Nober  
Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, NW  
Washington, D C. 20036



RE: STB Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 27)  
Wisconsin Central LTD - Abandonment -  
Ozaukee, Sheboygan and Manitowoc Counties, WI

Dear Chairman Nober:

I am writing on behalf of my constituents in connection with the above-captioned abandonment application filed by Canadian National Railway (CN) in the name of its subsidiary, Wisconsin Central LTD (WCL). It is my understanding that WCL filed this application with the Board on June 30, 2004, seeking to abandon a 37 mile long rail line between Kiel and Saukville, WI.

My constituents who use the subject rail line to ship and receive freight by rail have contacted me to express their displeasurc with CN's actions. During the time that CN has owned and operated this line, I have been told by my constituents that they have seen service markedly deteriorate with inadequate car supply, unresponsive service, rate increases, deferred maintenance, and general disinterest on the part of the railroad. While CN proposes to abandon just these 37 miles, the customers and communities dependent upon the railroad believe that CN will in time seek to abandon contiguous segments to the north and south. They believe that abandonment will have a serious adverse effect on these customers, their communities, employment, the environmental, and quality of life.

I am writing to request that the Board assign an administrative law judge to hold an oral, evidentiary hearing at locations along the line so that the customers and communities can testify about the adverse impacts the abandonment will cause. I understand that under the STB's procedures, protestants seeking such an oral evidentiary hearing must make that request by July 12. Although I realize that the STB does not normally assign abandonments for oral hearing, the facts in this case compel a hearing. I

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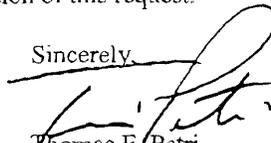
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am sure that you can understand that a written presentation without opportunity for cross examination does not offer the same opportunity to develop a record that a hearing allows.

Thanks for your careful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Petri  
Member of Congress