

August 1, 2007

Docket #: FD_35063_0 and

Docket #: FD_35065_0

-219900

-219901

TO: Mr. Vernon Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S W
Washington, D C. 20423

FROM: Mr. Carmine Palombo, P.E.
Director, Transportation Programs
SEMCOG
535 Griswold, Suite 300
Detroit, MI 48226

**Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. FD_35063_0, Michigan Central Railway, LLC-
Acquisition and Operation Exemption-Lines of Norfolk Southern Railway Company**

and

**Surface Transportation Board Docket No. FD_35065_0, Norfolk Southern Railway
Company-Trackage Rights Exemption-Michigan Central Railway, LLC.**

Dear Secretary Williams:

SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments is working to review the proposed Norfolk Southern lease/sale to Watco Transportation Services. In order to allow for adequate review of this submission, we are requesting a 90-day extension to the review and comment period.

The additional time for review will allow our organization to address the concerns of the members of our seven county Southeast Michigan region. This is a large and complex proposal that will have lasting impacts on one of the primary east-west rail corridors in our state. We want to ensure that the owner would be able to fulfill the current standards of rail service and

maintenance as well as continue the AMTRAK inter-city rail service and future passenger rail services that are being planned.

This action is not just important to businesses and citizens of Southeast Michigan, it has potential impacts to the entire state as well as many major transit projects being planned in Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. A 90-day extension to the review period will allow Southeast Michigan communities, businesses, and other citizens the necessary time for developing comments on the draft document

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carmine Palombo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carmine" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Palombo".

Carmine Palombo, P.E.
Director, Transportation Programs

CP: td

cc: See attached list.

cc:

Commissioner Charles D. Nottingham, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Commissioner W. Douglas Buttrey, Vice Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Commissioner Francis P. Mulvey, Board Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Honorable Pam Byrnes, Member of Congress
Michigan House of Representative 52nd District
124 N Capital Avenue, Office S 986
Lansing, MI 48933

Honorable Carl Levin
United States Senator
269 Russell, Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Daniel R. Elliott Iii, Party of Record
United Transportation Union
14600 Detroit Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44107-4250

Paul G. Moates, Party of Record
Sidley Austin LLP
1501 K Street, N W.
Washington, D.C 20005

Jeffrey O. Moreno, Party of Record
Thompson Hine LLP
1920 N Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, D C. 20036-1600

Karl Morell. Party of Record
Ball Janik LLP
1455 F Street, NW, Suite 225
Washington, D.C. 20005

William A. Mullins. Party of Record
Baker & Miller PLLC
2401 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20037

Donald H. Smith, Party of Record
Sidley Austin LLP
1501 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005

Michael J. Whims. Party of Record
Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers
1014 Iroquois Boulevard
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Carl M. Miller. Non-Party
Miller Law Office
618 Professional Park Drive
New Haven, IN 46774