

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.

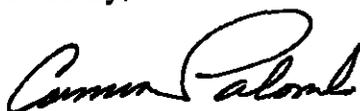
The additional time for review will allow our organization to address the concerns of the members of our seven county Southeast Michigan region. This is a large and complex proposal that will have lasting impacts on one of the primary east-west rail corridors in our state. We want to ensure that the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

I 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:

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Commissioner W. Douglas Buttrey, Vice Chairman
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