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THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN
MARK H. SCHAUER
19TH DISTRICT
SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

September 18, 2007

The Honorable Vernon Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S W
Washington DC 20423

Re Finance Docket No 35063
Michigan Central Railway, LLC – Acquisition and Operation Exemption – Lines of
Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Dear Secretary Williams,

Attached for filing are the original and ten copies of my Comments in the above-named proceeding Please feel free to contact me or my staff, Lisa Dedden-Cooper (517-373-1030), if you have any questions or require further information

Sincerely yours,

Mark Schauer
State Senator District 19
Michigan Senate

Enclosures



BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD



Finance Docket No 35063

MICHIGAN CENTRAL RAILWAY, LLC – ACQUISITION AND OPERATION
EXEMPTION – LINES OF NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY

MICHIGAN STATE SENATOR MARK SCHAUER'S
COMMENTS TO PETITION TO REVOKE CLASS EXEMPTION

I, Mark Schauer, State Senator for the 19th District of Michigan, respectfully submit to the Surface Transportation Board my Comments with regard to this Petition and the proposed acquisition by Michigan Central Railway, LLC, of certain rail lines currently owned and operated by Norfolk Southern Railway Company in Michigan

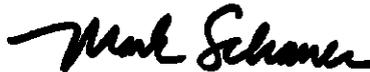
Good faith discussions have continued in the months since this Petition for Exemption was filed. I am encouraged by the progress that has been made among the various interested parties both to build positive working relationships and also to put in place legally enforceable guarantees regarding the effectiveness, safety, and maintenance of these lines, the impact on Amtrak operations and passengers, the impact on agribusiness and other customers along the lines, and the impact on the workers and families who will be affected by the acquisition.

I understand that a contract has today been entered into between Michigan Central and Amtrak to ensure the maintenance of, and future improvements to, passenger rail service in Michigan.

I further understand that discussions are continuing between labor representatives and representatives from Michigan Central, Norfolk Southern, and Watco regarding the impact this proposed transaction will have on Michigan workers. As set forth as Rail Transportation Policy at 49 U.S.C. 10101(11), "In regulating the railroad industry, it is the policy of the United States Government to encourage fair wages and safe and suitable working conditions in the railroad industry." I request that protections for workers in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 10101(11) and also the Federal Railway Labor Act be included as conditions of STB approval of this Petition, as well as the results from ongoing negotiations which I hope will be resolved before the date the STB issues its decision. The importance of this rail line to Michigan's economy requires that we have a reliable, skilled, experienced workforce to carry out its operations.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to these most recent and ongoing events.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark H. Schauer
State Senator – 19th District
Michigan Senate
P O Box 30036
Lansing MI 48909

Dated September 18, 2007

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 18th day of September, 2007, copies of Michigan State Senator Mark Schauer's Comments to Petition to Revoke Class Exemption were served via first-class mail, postage pre-paid, upon the following

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Mark Schauer, State Senator