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April 1, 2015

Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E. Street, S.W., Room 1106
Washington DC 20423-0001

Re: Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 46X)
Wisconsin Central Ltd. - Abandonment
Exemption, Lake County, Illinois

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please be advised that this firm represents the City of North Chicago, a community in Lake County, Illinois in which approximately .6 miles of the proposed abandoned track lies. The City has had the opportunity to review Ms. Brodrick's letter of January 29, 2015 and documentation in support of the requested abandonment. The City of North Chicago supports the abandonment of this line since the City does not perceive that there is any public need for the track in question. The railroad has no North Chicago customers within the limits of the proposed abandonment. There are Union Pacific and WCL tracks in the area to handle any new industrial customers. The abandonment would clear the way for redevelopment of the area, which is situated along Lake Michigan.

The City would comment on footnote 1 of the Environmental Historical Report found on page 3 referencing the Lake County Board Chairman, Aaron Lawler's, suggestion that the City of North Chicago was not aware of the proposed abandonment. Mr. Lawler's statement was correct; but for Mr. Lawler forwarding the November 25, 2014 letter from WCL's attorneys to the City of North Chicago, the City might not have been timely advised of the proposed abandonment.

Since receiving Mr. Lawler's letter, the City, through my office, has been in contact with WCL, the City of Waukegan and the Lake County Department of Transportation. North Chicago's review of the situation has assured us that, far from being a negative, the

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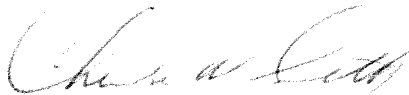
abandonment should create an opportunity to improve the area by directing a currently dormant facility toward redevelopment. The City intends to approach WCL about acquisition of the tract to be abandoned, and we are hopeful that our approach will be met with the same response that Waukegan has been accorded. If so, the communities and the railroad will be proud of the outcome.

Let me again state that the City of North Chicago has no objection to the proposed abandonment and looks forward to being able to work with the railroad, the County and the City of Waukegan to see that this property be put to a good public use going forward.

Should any questions exist, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

SMITH, LaLUZERNE & HARTMAN, LTD.



Charles W. Smith

CWS:sd

cc: Leon Rockingham, Jr.
Deborah Waszak
Ronald Lanz
Thomas Fitzgerald