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Office of Proceedings
April 15, 2024
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April 15, 2024

Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Proceedings
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re. Docket No. 36744, *Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation-Control-Iowa Northern Railway Company.*

Dear Ms. Brown:

On or about March 20, 2014 Member of Congress, Ashley Hinson of the Second Congressional District of Iowa sent a letter to the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board, Martin J. Oberman.

I request to comment on the contents of this letter which is relative to the proposed acquisition and control of the Iowa Northern Railway Company by the Canadian National Railway or CN. Specifically, I'm questioning the content of some of the statements that were made by this elected official. Starting with,

"The combined CN-Iowa Northern will provide opportunities for growth and will greatly benefit the constituents of the Iowa Second Congressional District." Rep. Hinson does not provide a single example of what this growth could mean, if it is even possible. I think there are numerous and reaching examples of the negative impacts of railroad mergers upon local communities starting with the Staggers Rail Deregulation Act of 1980.

"Iowa's agricultural communities and small business feed and fuel out economy." This is accurate, but again Rep. Hinson does not say anywhere exactly how this CN acquisition either real or imagined will ensure the vitality and importance of the agricultural complex to the United States and later the world. Representative Hinson does not provide a single financial,

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown, (Cont'd)

economic or a forecasting model to demonstrate exactly how the CN will benefit local communities with issues such as rate design and service intervals in addition to regional economic development and employment retention. My experience as someone that has followed much of the industry across the Northeast is that the CN has some of the highest rates, tariffs, car and fuel surcharges in the entire industry.

Representative Hinson does indicate, "access to global markets." I think the structural flaw in this undefined and unsupported statement is the fact that there is already access to global markets and there has been, for a very long time. Evidence of this I also think can be found in the well-written 1992 book, Cargill: Trading The Worlds Grain by Wayne G. Broehl.

Sincerely,

/S/ **Steven Connolly**

Certification:

I certify that a copy of this exact submission has been sent to: The Honorable Ashley Hinson, Member of Congress, 1717 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 by U.S. Mail, Regular Delivery.

cc. Parties of Record.

ASHLEY HINSON
2ND DISTRICT, IOWA

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND THE
CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1501

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HOMELAND SECURITY

March 20, 2024

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The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
March 20, 2024
Part of
Public Record

Re: Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation—Control—Iowa Northern
Railway Company, Docket No. FD 36744

Dear Chairman Oberman:

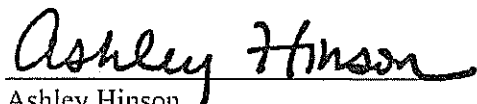
I write in support of the acquisition of Iowa Northern Railway Company by Canadian National Railway Company (CN). The combined CN-Iowa Northern will provide opportunities for growth that will greatly benefit the constituents of Iowa's Second Congressional District. I look forward to the advantages that CN's agreement with Iowa Northern Rail Company will bring to customers, supply chains, and Iowa's economy.

Iowa's agricultural communities and small businesses feed and fuel our country, and they are the backbone of our economy. It is crucial to ensure robust and resilient supply chains in such communities so that our farmers and businesses have access to the critical inputs and can, in turn, distribute their products. Many of those farmers and small business owners rely heavily on supply chain partners, including rail carriers like Iowa Northern. This acquisition will allow Iowa Northern to continue serving customers while offering new ways to access global markets through CN's expanded network and service options.

The acquisition will tightly connect communities in Iowa to the national rail network and provide direct access to key transportation corridors such as the Chicago gateway and CN's north-south route along the Mississippi River. This will bolster Iowa's supply chains, economy, and the livelihoods of farmers and rural communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for considering these important issues for my constituents. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Nick Bowser at Nick.Bowser@mail.house.gov in my office should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,


Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress