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Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**Re: Wisconsin Central Ltd. - Operation Exemption - Hallett Dock No. 5 in Duluth,
Minnesota, STB Docket No. FD 36346**

Dear Ms. Brown:

United States Steel Corporation ("USS") is writing in support of the Petition for Exemption filed by Wisconsin Central Ltd. ("WCL") for WCL's operation of a rail/water dock facility in Duluth, Minnesota known as Hallett Dock No. 5.

USS is an integrated steel producer with major production operations in the United States. USS manufactures a wide range of value-added steel sheet and tubular products for a wide variety of industries, including the automotive, industrial machinery, construction, oil, and gas industries. USS relies upon strong relationships with its transportation providers, including railroads, to support its customers across the United States.

USS has significant iron ore mining operations in northern Minnesota. USS's rail service arrangement with WCL includes the use of Hallett Dock No. 5 for the rail/water movements of materials in support of USS's mining operations. This includes limestone received from lake vessels for use in iron ore processing and taconite fines and blast furnace trim transported by rail to the dock for transfer to lake vessels.

A sale of Hallett Dock No. 5 to a buyer not committed to the existing dock operations would risk disruption to USS's supply chain. Accordingly, USS strongly supports WCL's plan to acquire and continue operation of the dock.

USS has a long-standing and productive relationship with WCL as a rail provider. USS looks forward to continuing that relationship in the important operations conducted at Hallett Dock No. 5. USS therefore urges the Board to approve WCL's Petition.

Sincerely,

Frank Kozleuchar

cc: Parties of Record