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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: **Docket No. AB-43 (Sub-No. 189X)**
Illinois Central Railroad Company –
Abandonment Exemption – In Champaign County, Ill.

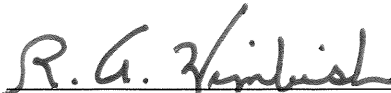
Dear Ms. Brown:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") and Topflight Grain Cooperative, Inc. ("TGC") jointly offer this status report pursuant to a Director's Order previously issued in the above-captioned proceeding. This matter currently is in abeyance at the consent of the parties to allow for private negotiations concerning the disposition of the subject railroad line (the "Line").

IC and TGC previously have reported on the status of discussions concerning the Line. The parties have little to report at this time by way of an update. A final agreement has not yet been struck, but the parties remain willing to discuss possible arrangements to preserve the Line. Accordingly, IC and TGC have agreed that this proceeding may remain in abeyance pending further dialogue.

IC and TGC request that the Board's abeyance order remain in place. The parties understand that they will be expected to continue to supply supplemental status reports, barring a final agreement in the interim.

Respectfully submitted,



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cc: All parties of record