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Mai Dinh, Director
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Proceedings
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re. Docket No. 36744, Protest/Opposition to City of Waterloo Mayor Quentin Hart.

Dear Ms. Dinh:

The reason for this letter is to question, comment, protest and oppose the recent letter of Mayor Quentin Hart of Waterloo, Iowa relative to Docket Number 36744 and the proposed acquisition of Iowa Northern Railroad Company by Canadian National Railway or CN.

The majority of my opposition is from the study of the corporate history of the CN and the vast unsubstantiated content of this letter starting with, "This acquisition presents a significant opportunity for the community offering numerous economic, environmental and infrastructure benefits."

Mayor Quentin Hart does not provide a single example of how exactly this acquisition reportedly in excess of \$550 million dollars will make even a single infrastructure or economic improvement anywhere in Iowa.

As you know CN is surrounded, and has been surrounded, by numerous issues such as the implementation of Precision Scheduled Railroading (PSR), to failed merger proposals with class one railroads, to it higher than average tariff and market rate designs.

Mayor Quentin Hart continues on, I'll stop short of calling it word salad. *"The economic impact of this acquisition is substantial. Improved rail service will attract new businesses, create jobs and stimulate local economic development."*

I'm surprised Mayor Hart didn't use the term: *"Public-Private Partnership."*

Mayor Quentin Hart did not provide a single example, calculation, market forecast or even a stated concept of how exactly this proposed acquisition will do anything but enhance the existing balance sheets, capital costs, financial aggregation and performance metrics of the Canadian National Railway.

As you also very likely know which also isn't mentioned in this letter is the impact of pending legislation upon the agricultural complex and the railroads that services these complexes all of which have been in existence before 1890.

H.R. 8467 is known as the Farm Bill. Legislation which, as I understand it, is currently either completely stalled and/or tabled and is enabling legislation that clearly needs markups and substantive amendments if this legislation is to move forward with new laws that have existed since at least 1937.

This important legislation similar to the proposed acquisition of the Iowa Northern Railway I think is very flawed and, on this basis, I'm asking your office to consider reality and the impact of stalled legislation before allowing Finance Docket 36744 to proceed any further.

Sincerely,

/s/ Steven Connolly.

cc. Parties of Record