Wisconsin Central Group
An ad hoc Rail Freight Stakeholders Coalition
www.centralcorridors.com/wcg/

Lake States Shippers Association
A Classic Co-op Shippers Association
www.centralcorridors.com/lssa/

John Duncan Varda, Counsel
DeWitt Ross & Stevens s.c.
2 E. Mifflin Street, Suite 600
Madison, WI 53703
608-212-1103
jdvarda@dewittross.com

April 23, 2019

Resolution of the Northwoods Rail Transit Commission

Great Lakes Forests Region
NORTHWOODS RAIL SYSTEM RESTORATION

Whereas, the future health of the upper Great Lakes Forests, welfare of the rural communities and industries of the Great Lakes Forests Region and the Region's connections with the urban United States and North American and overseas commerce is manifestly and critically dependent up a connected rail system, east-west and north-south, serving the Region and capable of competing for non-captive, truck competitive truckload freight originating and/or terminating in the Region.

Whereas, restoration of a dedicated fleet or pool of railcars (*e.g.*, log and boxcar), line segments, sidings, landings and transload sites or other rail-related facilities funded, in whole or in part, by grants supported, as a measure of return on investment, by their direct and indirect public benefits arising from conversion of over-the-road truck freight to rail and/or rail intermodal* estimated, is an essential component of such a restoration and, over the next decade, is estimated to require re-investment of $80 to $120 million dollars, most of which is only available through federal programs access to which require state and other sources of matching funds.

Whereas, recent, extensive freight-based research, including the Lake States Shipper Association / Michigan Tech Data Co-op Project (2018-2019), at the level of "Actionable Shipper Data," indicate a sufficient freight base to support restoration of the Region's rail system, over time, re-establishing sustainable, competitive rail rates and service throughout the Region.

Whereas, funding for detailed planning and creation of institutional structures necessary to expand the Actionable Shipper Data base, identify and prioritize restoration projects and support grant funding applications is estimated at $300,000.

Now, Therefore, Resolved, the Northwoods Rail Transit Commission shall undertake planning and grant funding applications necessary for restoration of the upper Great Lakes Forests Region's rail system.

By the Commission, meeting at Rhinelander, Wisconsin, this 10th day of May 2019.

* "Intermodal" in this context refers to non-traditional or start-up "Local Intermodal Network Connections" moving via manifest trains at least to/from rural, lighter density lines, *e.g.*, Florida East Coast Style per *Trains*, June 2017.