

**BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2019 - 19**

**Resolution Requesting Re-connection of Rail Line Cameron, Wisconsin**

**TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1           **WHEREAS**, Barron County has two Class 1 rail lines running east-west, Canadian  
2 National, and north-south, Union Pacific through Barron County; and  
3

4           **WHEREAS**, Progressive Rail, Wisconsin Northern Railroad, at this time, has an  
5 operating contract for the Union Pacific line; and  
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7           **WHEREAS**, the aforementioned rail lines connect within the Village of Cameron,  
8 however, at this time that connection has been severed; and  
9

10          **WHEREAS**, on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019, a meeting was conducted by State Representative  
11 Romaine Quinn, at the Northern Industrial Sand Plant, Chetek, WI; and  
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13          **WHEREAS**, at this meeting representatives from US Senator Ron Johnson's office and  
14 US Representative Sean Duffy's office were present along with a representative from Barron  
15 Electric, Barron County and Northern Industrial Sands; and  
16

17          **WHEREAS**, the main focus of this meeting was discussing the reopening and  
18 reconnection of the rail line in Cameron, so-that products can be shipped by rail to Ladysmith  
19 Wisconsin and then north into Canada; and

20          **WHEREAS**, the reconnection of this line has the support of other businesses and  
21 individuals, such as, Northern Industrial Sands, Chetek, WI., Shadow Plastics, Rice Lake, WI.,  
22 McFarland-Cascade, Cameron, WI, Synergy Cooperative, Ridgeland, WI, Chippewa Sand  
23 Company, New Auburn, WI, Barron County Economic Development Director Dave Armstrong,  
24 to name a few; and

25          **WHEREAS**, at one time the Barron County Board of Supervisors and the Chippewa  
26 County Board of Supervisors supported West Wisconsin Rail Transit Authority, WWRTA,  
27 who's purpose was to maintain and improve rail lines within Barron County, along with applying  
28 for State and Federal Grants to fulfill their mission; and

29          **WHEREAS**, when the WWRTA was active, it worked cooperatively with Wisconsin  
30 Northern Rail Road so rail service was not lost to Barron County; and

31          **WHEREAS**, the reconnection of this line will support economic development, job  
32 growth, employment, food safety and security by offering rail connection with two Class 1 rail  
33 roads; and

34          **WHEREAS**, the drafting of this resolution has the support of the Barron County  
35 Economic Development Committee, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting; and

36          **WHEREAS**, the drafting of this resolution has the support of the Barron County  
37 Executive Committee at their June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting and at the July 3, 2019 meeting was  
38 approved on a vote of 8 – 0 with Okey, Bartlett, Heinecke, Rindsig, Buchanan, McRoberts,

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39 Hanson and Thompson voting in favor and no members voting against. Horstman was absent;
40 and

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Barron County Board of
42 Supervisors does hereby support the reconnection of the rail line in Cameron, Wisconsin, for the
43 reasons outlined previously; and

44
45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Barron County Board of Supervisors does
46 hereby request that Federal and State Officials work quickly to require the aforementioned
47 railroads to reconnect these lines and to work cooperatively with the local short-line operator,
48 Wisconsin Northern Railroad, so that service is restored swiftly and effectively to all shippers on
49 either rail system; and

50
51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be distributed to; US Senator Ron
52 Johnson, US Senator Tammy Baldwin, US Representative Sean Duffy, the US Surface
53 Transportation Board, Governor Tony Evers, the State Commission of Rails, State Senator Janet
54 Bewley, State Representative Romaine Quinn and Wisconsin Counties Association; and

55
56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that publication of this resolution may occur through
57 posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.
58

OFFERED THIS 15th day of July, 2019.

Number of readings required: One (X) Two ( )
Vote required for passage: Majority (X)
2/3 Entire Board ( )
Source of funding: Budgeted ( ) General Fund ( )
Grant ( ) Contingency ( )
Other (X) Details: N/A
Fiscal impact:
- Current year total amount: \$ -0-
- Future years total amount: \$ -0-
- Effect on tax levy - current year: \$ -0-
- Effect on tax levy - future years: \$ -0-
Fiscal impact reviewed by:
Jodi Busch, Finance Director
Approved as to form by:
Jeffrey French, Administrator
John Muench, Corporation Counsel
Louie Okey, Executive Committee Chair
Board Action: Adopted (X) Failed ( ) Tabled ( )
Chair Okey and Administrator French discussed the letters of support received for the reconnection of the rail line and stated that this is an advisory resolution only. Motion: (Skoug/Schradle) to approve. Discussion. Larry McGlumphry from Northern Industrial Sands Company answered questions from the Board. Carried.