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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of: : Case No. 10-1277-RR-CSS

The Complaint of Ohio State : MOTION TO DISMISS OF

Legislative Board, United
Transportation Union,

RESPONDENT NORFOLK
SOUTHERN RAILWAY

<u>COMPANY</u>

Complainant, :

D. Casey Talbott (0046767)

vs. : Counsel of Record

Mark W. Sandretto (0079536)

Norfolk Southern Railway Company, : EASTMAN & SMITH LTD.

One SeaGate, 24th Floor

Respondent. : P.O. Box 10032

Toledo, Ohio 43699-0032 Telephone: (419) 241-6000

Fax: (419) 247-1777

Attorneys for Respondent

Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Pursuant to OAC 4901-5-05(B)(3), Respondent Norfolk Southern Railway Company ("Norfolk Southern") respectfully requests that the Commission dismiss the Complaint of the Ohio State Legislative Board, United Transportation Union ("UTU").

A memorandum in support is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

EASTMAN & SMITH LTD.

D. Casey Talbott (0046767)

Counsel of Record

Mark W. Sandretto (0079536)

One SeaGate, 24th Floor

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Attorneys for Respondent

Norfolk Southern Railway Company

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Background:

On September 1, 2010, UTU (apparently by and through its Chairman and Legislative Director) filed a written Complaint against Norfolk Southern in the form of a letter dated August 30, 2010. In sum, the Complaint alleges that excessive weed and vegetation growth exists at Linndale in the vicinity of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, and requests that an investigation be conducted to determine whether Norfolk Southern is in violation of an existing "Weed Order" and, assuming so, then the Commission is requested to issue an order requiring the elimination of the growth and the establishment of a vegetation control program.

Law and Argument:

The UTU's Complaint is deficient on its face, for two separate reasons, and should be dismissed.

First, complaints related to the elimination of alleged weed and vegetation growth are governed by OAC 4901-5-07¹ and, accordingly, are to be handled initially pursuant to the informal procedure outlined in OAC 4901-5-05. As a jurisdictional prerequisite, OAC 4901-5-05(A)(4) states in pertinent part that a formal weed and vegetation complaint "shall aver that a reasonable but unsuccessful effort has been made by the parties to reach an amicable agreement." The instant Complaint makes no such averment, as no such effort was made.

Second, the Complaint requests an investigation to determine whether Norfolk Southern is in violation of an existing "Weed Order." No such Order was attached to the Complaint and, to Norfolk Southern's understanding, no such Order exists.

Conclusion:

The UTU's Complaint is deficient on its face, and should be dismissed.²

Respectfully submitted,

EASTMAN & SMITH LTD

D. Casey Talbott (0046/167)

Counsel of Record

Mark W. Sandretto (0079536)

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Attorneys for Respondent Norfolk Southern Railway Company

¹ The UTU inaccurately states that the Complaint is brought pursuant to OAC 4901-5-22; this section was rescinded in 2006.

² Norfolk Southern reserves the right to contest subject matter jurisdiction; further, and assuming jurisdiction, Norfolk Southern reserves the right to contest the merits of the Complaint.

PROOF OF SERVICE

This is to certify that a copy of the Motion to Dismiss of Respondent Norfolk Southern Railway Company was sent by ordinary U.S. mail this 21st day of September, 2010 to Luther G. Newsom, Chairman and State Legislative Director, Ohio State Legislative Board, United Transportation Union, Suite 245, 2021 East Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43229-3522.

Attorney for Respondent

Norfolk Southern Railway Company