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Via Overnight Mail

Docketing Clerk c/o Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Attention: Docketing Division, 13th Floor 180 East Broad Street Columbus, OH 43215-3793

Re:

In the Matter of the Complaint of Ohio State Legislative Board and United Transportation Union vs. CSX Transportation for the Alleged Excessive Growth of Weeds and Vegetation in the Vicinity of Ridgeway at Scottslawn Secondary-Marion/Hardin Counties

PUCO Case No. 11-5235-RR-CSS Our File No. N1432/176349

Dear Docketing Clerk:

Enclosed for filing are an original and seven (7) copies of Respondent Norfolk Southern Railway Company's:

- 1. Motion to Dismiss; and
- Answer

Pursuant to Rule 4901-5-05(B)(3) of the Ohio Administrative Code, please file the Motion to Dismiss first, and then the Answer; also, please return a file-stamped copy of each pleading to me via the enclosed, stamped envelope.

Please call me – at 419-241-6000 – if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

EASTMAN & SMITH LTD

DCT/km1 **Enclosures**

Leah Thomas-Dalton (w/enc.) Luther G. Newsom (w/enc.) Rusty Orben (w/enc.)

Thomas C. Wood (w/enc.)

Technician

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

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In the Matter of the Complaint of Ohio State Legislative Board and

United Transportation Union vs. CSX

Transportation for the Alleged Excessive Growth of Weeds and Vegetation in the Vicinity of

Ridgeway at Scottslawn Secondary –

Marion/Hardin Counties.

Case No. 11-5235-RR-CSS

RESPONDENT NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY

COMPANY'S ANSWER

: D. Casey Talbott (0046767)

(Counsel of Record)

: Mark W. Sandretto (0079536)

EASTMAN & SMITH LTD.

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: Attorneys for Norfolk Southern

Railway Company

For its Answer to the Complaint submitted on behalf of Complainant State Legislative Board, United Transportation Union ("UTU"), Respondent Norfolk Southern Railway Company ("Norfolk Southern") states as follows.

1. Upon information and belief, Norfolk Southern understands that the instant Complaint was misdirected to Norfolk Southern, and involves property and/or conditions which are not within Norfolk Southern's possession and/or control.

2. Any further allegations are denied for want of knowledge and information or otherwise.

FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

3. The UTU's Complaint fails in whole or in part to state a claim against Norfolk Southern upon which relief can be granted.

SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

4. The UTU's Complaint is deficient on its face, both procedurally and substantively, and should be dismissed.

THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

5. The Commission lacks subject matter jurisdiction over the allegations contained in the UTU's Complaint.

FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

6. The allegations in the UTU's Complaint are preempted, in whole or in part, by federal law.

WHEREFORE, Norfolk Southern respectfully requests that the Commission dismiss the UTU's Complaint at least as against Norfolk Southern.

Respectfully submitted,

EASTMAN & SMITHLAD.

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Attorneys for Norfolk Southern Railway Company

PROOF OF SERVICE

A copy of the foregoing Respondent Norfolk Southern Railway Company's Answer was mailed this day of October, 2011, to: Leah Thomas-Dalton, Chief, PUCO Rail Division, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215; Luther G. Newsom, Chairman & State Legislation Director, Ohio State Legislative Board, 2021 East Dublin-Granville Road, Suite 245, Columbus, Ohio 43229-3522; Rusty Orben, Designated Agent, CSX Transportation, 137 E. State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215; and Thomas C. Wood, UTU Legal Counsel, 501 Morrison Road, Suite 203, Gahanna, Ohio 43230.

Attorney for Norfolk Southern Railway Company

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