

**Transportation Division**

**Local 329**

**Boone, Iowa**

September 15, 2020

(R-85-20)

Mr. Jim Eisele

Senior Supervisor CMS Lodging

Union Pacific Railroad

850 Jones Street

Omaha, NE 68102

Reference: Inspection-Council Bluffs Lodging Facility/Best Western Crossroads of the Bluffs

Dear Sir:

On September 4, 2020, the Union Pacific lodging facility in Council Bluffs, Iowa, Best Western Crossroads of the Bluffs, was inspected by SMART-TD Local Chairmen. After the inspection the Local Chairmen filled out the lodging inspection form, attached and submitted to the General Chairmen for review.

A review of the inspection indicates that the Best Western Crossroads is unacceptable for an away-from-home lodging for the following reasons.

 1,) The parking lot is not well lit. The walk to the twenty-four (24) hour restaurants is unsafe at night. There are transients, homeless, prostitutes and pimps that approach the employees walking to eat and the employees feel it is not safe during the day and treacherous at night.

 2.) Two of the outside entrance doors do not lock and one door does not have a handle or lock. This allows anybody not associated with the hotel to have access.

 3.) The rooms that were inspected were clean; although there have been numerous complaints about dirty room. Bed bugs have been an issue for the employees.

 4.) None of the rooms were equipped with darkening draperies that will block light from the rooms.

 5.) None of the rooms were equipped with bathroom vent fans. The faucets would run rusty water for 10-15 seconds prior to clean water

 6.) Numerous truck stops in close proximity where they leave trucks running all hours of the day and night. All the noise makes it hard to get the proper rest.

 7.) Crew room does not have lockers. Room is dirty and the Union Pacific computer is not in working order.

With all the exceptions taken with the Best Western Crossroads of the Bluffs is unacceptable for away-from-home lodging. The Best Western Crossroads of the Bluffs does not meet the standards outlined in the Lodging Agreements. The crews tied up at Council Bluffs, Iowa, need to assigned new lodging immediately. Please notify our offices when you have a list of acceptable hotels for the Organization to inspect for our away-from-home crews in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

 Sincerely,

Jerry Kalbfell Terry Dixon

General Chairman General Chairman

GO-225 GO-569

JLK:jg

Attachment(s)

cc: Terrill Maxwell, Director Labor Relations - UP

 Rebecca Cates, Director Labor Relations - UP