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ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
May 15, 2020
Part of
Public Record

ANDERSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

TERRY FRANK
COUNTY MAYOR

May 11, 2020

Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: Office of Proceedings
395 E St SW
Washington, DC 20024

RE: Docket No. AB-1296X, *R.J. Corman Railroad Property, LLC – Abandonment Exemption – in Scott, Campbell, and Anderson Counties, Tenn.*

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing in opposition to the Notice of Abandonment Exemption filed in the above-referenced proceeding by R.J. Corman Railroad Property, LLC ("Corman") and in support of offeror Arkansas-Oklahoma Railroad Co.'s ("Offeror's") Motion to Extend Time to File Offer of Financial Assistance. As stated in the Notice, the line at issue runs through three counties in East Tennessee: Anderson County, Campbell County, and Scott County. This rail line and its infrastructure are very valuable assets in the current and future economic development of our region. I am the elected Mayor of Anderson County, Tennessee. Pursuant to Tennessee statute, I am one of three statutory members of the North East Tennessee Railroad Authority.

The North East Tennessee Railroad Authority was created for the express purpose of "secur[ing] economic benefits to the counties of Anderson, Campbell and Scott, by providing for the continuation of railroad service in Anderson, Campbell, and Scott counties." The Railroad Authority is preparing to issue public notice of a meeting, and I have requested that the Railroad Authority take a formal position regarding Corman's notice. If this proceeding remains pending before the Surface Transportation Board when that meeting takes place, I will request a motion authorizing the Railroad Authority to file a formal statement in opposition to Corman's notice and in support of the Offeror's position.

Prior to Corman's filing, I was in contact with agents for the Offeror, providing support and assistance. On August 19, 2019, the Anderson County Board of Commissioners issued Resolution # 19-08-769, supporting preservation of the line and authorizing me to support keeping this line in service. Now that Corman has requested the STB not to agree to the extension I have been in contact with the Tennessee Department of Transportation and the office of United States Senator Marsha Blackburn in an effort to seek their assistance and support. I have also requested support from Representative John Ragan and the Tennessee State Legislature's Energy Task Force in order to preserve this valuable infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Terry Frank

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing letter has been served upon the following by first class mail:

Filed By	Address	For
Christopher J. Schroeck	302 S. Jefferson St. Roanoke, VA 24011 United States Tel: 5404924080, x211	National Coal, LLC
Robert Weber	409 Thurman Ave #102 Crossville, TN 38555 United States Tel: 931-456-6259	Cumberland Trails Conference
Daniel A. LaKemper	P.O. Box 185 Morton, IL 61550 United States Tel: (918) 465-0299	Arkansas-Oklahoma Railroad Co.
Mark Bevelhimer	P.O. Box 6873 Oak Ridge, TN 37830 United States Tel: 865-607-6071	Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning
Catherine S. Wright	110 North Main Street Nicholasville, KY 40356 United States Tel: 8597244104 Fax: 859-885-2307	R. J. Corman Railroad Property, LLC


Terry Frank