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Office of Proceedings
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Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: Office of Proceedings
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

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

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Tennessee Mining Association to voice our grave concerns regarding the potential abandonment of the Oneida rail line in Scott, Campbell, and Anderson Counties, Tennessee, proposed by R.J. Corman Railroad Property, LLC. Abandonment of this line would jeopardize any future utilization of coal reserves in this area by Tennessee miners. As an organization that supports the critical operation of the mining industry in the state of Tennessee, TMA adamantly opposes this action. This letter serves as support of offeror Arkansas-Oklahoma Railroad Co.'s (Offeror's) Motion to Extend Time to File Offer of Financial Assistance.

Preservation of this rail line will protect future, affordable access by Tennessee mining companies to undeveloped coal reserves in Anderson County, in addition to supporting imminent freight needs. Active mining operations serve to provide critical reserves for electricity and numerous well-paying jobs in this rural area of the state.

These locations were previously mined prior to the enactment of SMCRA regulations in 1977, which left open seams that continue to pollute our streams with iron, manganese and acidic discharges. However, modern mining methods require coal companies re-mining this area to implement various conservation activities as a result of SMCRA regulations, including reclamation to approximate original contour, planting trees, and de-polluting local streams. In addition, reclaimed coal mine lands in Anderson County generate significant tourist revenue, as thousands of people visit Windrock Park every year to participate in outdoor activities, such as off-roading, hunting, and camping.

As demonstrated above, removing this rail line would have a significant impact for years to come. We look forward to working with the Surface Transportation Board to eliminate this unnecessary threat to the vitality of the mining and outdoor recreation industries in the State of Tennessee.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chuck Laine w/e/p G. Brown
Chuck Laine
President, Tennessee Mining Association

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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

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/s/ Chuck Laine w/e/p Greg Brown

Chuck Laine