



IRAIL CAR SERVICES, LLC

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July 2, 2020

300830

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown, Chief
Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 2, 2020
Part of
Public Record

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

Dear Ms. Brown:

Hereby forwarded for filing with the Board is a Public (Redacted) Version of a letter in support of the appeal of the decision of Office of Proceedings Director Allison C. Davis rejecting the offer of financial assistance (“OFA”) filed by Arkansas-Oklahoma Railroad Co. (“AOK”) in the above referenced Docket.

Respectfully submitted,

Mario C. Bush, Sr.
President/Owner
Independent Rail Associates
IRAIL Car Services

cc: Parties of Record



IRAIL CAR SERVICES, LLC

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June 29, 2020

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Vice Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
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, Tennessee**

Dear Chairman Begeman, Vice Chairman Oberman, and Commissioner Fuchs:

IRail Car Services, LLC respectfully submits this letter in support of the appeal of the decision of Office of Proceedings Director Allison C. Davis rejecting the offer of financial assistance (“OFA”) filed by Arkansas-Oklahoma Railroad Co. (“AOK”) in the above referenced Docket.

It was with great distress that we received news of the rejection of AOK’s offer after we were informed the petitioning party, R. J. Corman Railroad Property, LLC (RJC), had offered to negotiate with AOK regarding their OFA. Although we did not give a direct letter of support, we were under the impression that this was not immediately needed as our intent with regard to expanding our business was referenced in the Support Statement for AOK’s OFA that was submitted to the Board on June 23 by Mr. Daniel Elliott on behalf of the North East Tennessee Rail Authority.¹ We have been working with representatives of AOK [REDACTED].

We noted that, in the decision issued by the Office of Proceedings Director, our desire to locate an active rail-based business on the Line (should AOK’s OFA ultimately be successful) wasn’t even addressed despite having been referenced in the NETRA Support Statement. The Director’s decision states in part that, “Lacking in the record is specific information such as statements from actual prospective users of the Line explaining their intent to use freight rail service in the foreseeable future or the actual volume of shipments they anticipate making.”²

¹ (Elliott, *NETRA Support Statement* 2020)

² R. J. Corman Railroad Property LLC—Abn. Exemption—in Scott, Campbell, Anderson Counties, TN, AB 1296X (June 26, 2020)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In asking that AOK's appeal be granted, we would respectfully ask the Board to consider this letter as such "specific information" noted as lacking in the Director's decision. We realize this submission may be later than it should have been; therefore, we humbly ask the Board's leniency with respect to that fact given that our business interests were included in NETRA's Support Statement. While we have been in active discussions with AOK representatives for a couple of months, we aren't willing to disclose the full context of our business plans in the public record just yet, thus the request for confidentiality with regard to this letter.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ MARIO C. Bush, Sr.

Mario C. Bush, Sr.
President/Owner
Independent Rail Associates
IRAIL Car Services

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on July 2, 2020, I served the foregoing Public (Redacted) Letter of Support using the below email addresses on all parties of record in this proceeding:

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/s/ Mario C. Bush, Sr.
Mario C. Bush, Sr.
President/Owner
Independent Rail Associates
IRAIL Car Services