

CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN
3RD DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4203

WASHINGTON OFFICE
230 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3271 (202) 225-3494 (FAX)

DISTRICT OFFICES
FEDERAL COURTHOUSE, SUITE 126
900 GEORGIA AVENUE
CHATTANOOGA, TN 37402
(423) 756-2342 (423) 756-6613 (FAX)
200 ADMINISTRATION ROAD, SUITE 100
P.O. BOX 2001
OAK RIDGE, TN 37830
(865) 576-1976 (865) 576-3221 (FAX)
6 EAST MADISON AVENUE COURTHOUSE
ATHENS, TN 37303-4297

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Ms. Ann D. Begeman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Chairman Begeman:

I am writing in support of preserving the forty-one miles of railroad line located in Scott, Campbell, and Anderson Counties, Tennessee, and I ask that you thoughtfully review the reconsideration petition from the North East Tennessee Rail Authority and the Arkansas-Oklahoma Railroad Company to allow for the purchase of this line owned by R.J. Corman (RJC).

The projected business plan for this line, along with efforts to add new shippers, will have a positive annual economic impact. However, the abandonment and removal of the line in these rural counties would have a negative impact on the local communities and damage their prospects for growth and development. Additionally, removal of the line would jeopardize any future utilization of energy reserves in these areas and eliminate Tennessee jobs.

Since 2008, over \$1.7 million in public dollars, including U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER Grant funds, were used for the rehabilitation and maintenance of the RJC line in Tennessee. It would be disappointing if taxpayer funds were wasted, especially those awarded to support economically distressed counties.

Proudly serving East Tennessee in the U.S. House of Representatives, I applaud the dedication of business leaders and local governing authorities in Anderson, Campbell, and Scott Counties to improve their communities. It is a privilege to lend my support for the continued operation of the railroad line, and I ask for your renewed consideration.

Sincerely,

Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress

cc: Mr. Martin J. Oberman
Mr. Patrick J. Fuchs