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Commissioner Mike Wheeler
Butler County Commission
205 West Central
El Dorado, KS 67042

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Re: STB Docket No. AB-870X
Butler County, Kansas-Abandonment Exemption-
In Butler County, Kansas

Dear MS. Brown:

I am writing this letter in regards to the request by HMA Properties, LLC to the Surface Transportation Board to not act on the Joint Petition until HMA and any other interested parties have the opportunity to respond. I respectfully ask that the Surface Transportation Board deny the request by HMA Properties LLC to unnecessarily protracting this action and proceed to acting on the request to the Joint Petition for Substitution of Trail Manager.

The portion of the trail that is in question and needs to be acted on is a critical section of the trail for connecting the City of Augusta's completed portion of the trail to the completed portion of the trail to the City of Andover and then on into the City of Wichita's completed portion of the trail. The obvious benefits to a complete and connected trail will certainly be a wonderful amenity to all three of these communities. In addition to the quality of life issues, the economic development effect that a complete and connected trail will have on these 3 communities, and also for the health and well being of the people of Butler County that will use the trail. In the past, the Butler County Board of County Commissioners has successfully transferred part of the trail to the City of Andover and is now awaiting a positive response to the last critical piece of the puzzle, the 3.5 miles of abandoned railroad track that will complete the project and connect the City of Augusta to the City of Andover.

Your consideration is appreciated-

Mike Wheeler
Butler County Commissioner-District #4

Cc: parties of record