



Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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The Honorable Patrick Toomey
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Toomey,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding Consolidated Rail Corp. – Abandonment Exemption – In Schuylkill & Carbon Counties, Pa., Docket No. AB 167 (Sub-No. 1195X). I appreciate hearing your views on this matter and acknowledge the importance to communities, such as Kline Township and the villages of Haddock and Lofty, of reliable water and sewer infrastructure.

As you may be aware, because there has been uncertainty surrounding the status of the line at issue in this case, Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) was directed to provide the Board with additional information regarding the line's status by January 17, 2022. In particular, the Board was interested in any evidence demonstrating or indicating whether Conrail exercised the abandonment authority the Interstate Commerce Commission apparently granted it in 1971. Separately, on January 19, 2022, the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis recommended that the Board remove the Section 106 historic preservation condition imposed in an earlier, December 27, 2021, decision and concluded that the proposed abandonment will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Because this case is pending, I cannot comment further at this time. However, please be assured that the Board will give full and timely consideration to all public comments and submissions in this proceeding.

A copy of your letter and this response has been placed in the public docket. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Ms. Janie Sheng, Acting Director of the Board's Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance, at 202-245-0238.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Oberman
Chairman