



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

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June 7, 2022
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June 7, 2022

The Honorable Suzan K. DelBene
2330 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DelBene,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding GNP RLY, Inc. – Abandonment Exemption – In King County, Wash., AB 1316X. I appreciate hearing your views on the request to railbank a segment of line that traverses the City of Woodinville, Washington (“the Line”).

As you are aware, on April 11, 2022, the Board held this proceeding in abeyance. A map submitted in another proceeding before the Board suggested that the proposed abandonment of the Line, if consummated, could isolate a segment of track from the interstate rail network. That map also indicated that the potentially stranded segment is railbanked. Railbanked lines remain within the interstate rail network and cannot be treated as abandoned. The Board held the proceeding in abeyance to allow GNP to file a supplement addressing whether the proposed abandonment would strand the segment at issue, and, if so, how that would affect GNP’s entitlement to the abandonment exemption it seeks. GNP submitted supplemental evidence on April 19, 2022 and May 4, 2022, and on May 24, 2022, filed a letter attaching a decision from the Court of Appeals of the State of Washington.

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