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VIA E-FILING

Cynthia T. Brown, Chief
Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington DC 20423-0001

Re: Growth Resources of Wellsboro Foundation (GROW)– Abandonment Exemption – In Tioga County, Pennsylvania, AB1320X

Wellsboro & Corning Railroad, LLC (WCOR) – Discontinuance of Lease and Operation Authority- In Tioga County, Pennsylvania, AB 1325X

Dear Ms. Brown:

The Tioga County Board of Commissioners is aware that on July 28, 2022, GROW and WCOR jointly filed a verified notice of exemption pursuant to 49 C.F.R. part 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments & Discontinuances of Service for GROW to abandon a segment of rail line, and WCOR to discontinue lease and operation authority, for approximately 3.27 miles of rail line between Milepost 0.624 and Milepost 3.9 (the “Line”) in Wellsboro, Tioga County, PA (Verified Notice, Growth Res. of Wellsboro Found.—Aban. Exemption—in Tioga Cnty., Pa., AB 1320X et al., July 28, 2022)¹. GROW and WCOR filed a supplement to the joint verified notice on August 19, 2022.

The Tioga County Board of Commissioners were disheartened to learn that on September 15, 2022, the Surface Transportation Board ordered the proceeding in Docket No. AB 1320X, including the environmental review, and the proceeding in Docket No. AB 1325X be held in abeyance until further order of the Board.²

As stated in the July 28, 2022 joint verified notice, GROW intends to sell the Line to the Tioga County Board of Commissioners for the purpose of constructing the Pine Creek Rail Trail Extension/Marsh Creek Greenway.

¹ The Notice filed on July 28, 2022 amended and replaced the original notice of exemption filed by GROW on May 9, 2022. GROW and WCOR filed a supplement to the joint verified notice on August 19, 2022. In light of the supplement, August 19, 2022, is deemed the filing date of the joint verified notice.

² Board decision issued on September 15, 2022; proceedings for Docket No. AB1320X and AB1325X held in abeyance to permit consideration of issues raised by the parties’ filings.

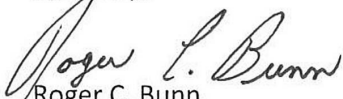
Tioga County has been working with state agencies since 2010 to plan and construct this Greenway. **The County has secured substantial federal, state, and local dollars to construct this Greenway. These grants have expiration dates, and if not expended within the timeline outlined within each grant agreement, the funds will be lost.** The Greenway is a major economic development initiative for Tioga County. The Greenway will connect downtown Wellsboro with the Pine Creek Rail Trail, one of the nation's top 10 Rail Trails. In 2019, an economic impact analysis was prepared to quantify the impact of connecting users of the Trail Extension with the shopping, dining, and lodging establishments in the Borough of Wellsboro. The Greenway will attract over 64,000 unique visitors each year generating over \$11.6 million in new spending. This new consumer spending will support new business and industry growth within the Region. The Line has not been used for freight service since September 12, 2016. The delay by the Surface Transportation Board is jeopardizing the County's effort to diversify its economy. The Line will better serve the County as a trail extension vs. an unused rail line.

On April 6, 2022, GROW entered into a Sales Agreement with the Tioga County Board of Commissioners which provided for a closing date of July 29, 2022³. On July 11, 2022, an Addendum was executed moving the closing date to September 30, 2022. On September 22, 2022, another Addendum was executed moving the closing date to October 31, 2022. The County continues to provide updates to our funders regarding the status of this acquisition.

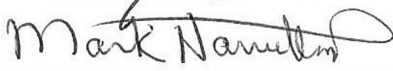
The County believes that the expedited processing of GROW's abandonment of this segment of rail line, and WCOR's discontinuance of lease and operating authority over the 3.27 miles of rail line, would greatly benefit the public interest by not only creating a recreational asset to be enjoyed by the Region, but also by adding jobs to our economy.

The Tioga County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests the Surface Transportation Board **expedite** the processing of Docket Number 1320X and Docket Number 1325X. A copy of this letter has been served on all parties of record in STB Dockets AB1320X and AB1325X.

Sincerely,


Roger C. Bunn


Erick J. Coolidge


Mark L. Hamilton

Cc: Erick M. Hockey, Wellsboro & Corning Railroad, LLC
Brian S. Duff, Growth Resources of Wellsboro Foundation
Richard Welsh, National Association of Reversionary Property Owner (dick156@earthlink.net)

³ Sales Agreement between GROW and Tioga County Board of Commissioners included in the July 28, 2022 joint verified notice