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October 19, 2022

305514

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
October 20, 2022
Part of
Public Record

Re: Growth Resources of Wellsboro Foundation (GROW)—Abandonment Exemption—in
Tioga County, Pennsylvania, AB 1320X

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

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing today to urge the Surface Transportation Board to expedite the review and give full and fair consideration of the August 19, 2022, notice of exemption filed jointly by GROW and WCOR, as referenced above. This request will enable 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 in Wellsboro, Tioga County, PA. This rail line has gone unused for freight services since September 12, 2016.

The abandonment of this rail line would allow Tioga County to proceed with a major economic development initiative known as the Pine Creek Rail Trail Extension/Marsh Creek Greenway. This \$15 million economic development initiative will tap into pre-existing entrepreneurial ventures to dramatically increase tourism within the Pennsylvania Wilds 12.5 county region. Over \$5 million in federal, state, and local funds have been secured, and the County is at risk of losing these funds if the project is not advanced in a timely manner.

A copy of this letter has been served on all parties of record in STB Dockets AB1320X and AB1325X. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of their request. I ask the Board to act as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Fred Keller
Member of Congress

cc: Roger Bunn, Tioga County Commissioner
Mark L. Hamilton, Tioga County Commissioner
Erick J. Coolidge, Tioga County Commissioner
Erick M. Hockey, Wellsboro & Corning Railroad, LLC
Brian S. Duff, Growth Resources of Wellsboro Foundation
Richard Welsh, National Association of Reversionary Property Owner