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Office of Proceedings
October 28, 2022
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**GROW**

Growth Resources of Wellsboro:
*GROW Businesses, Opportunities &
Strong Communities*

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October 26, 2022

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,

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

Dear Ms. Brown:

As the Board is aware, 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.

On September 15, 2022, the Board ordered the proceeding in Docket No. AB 1320X, including the environment review, as well as the proceeding in Docket No. AB 1325X held in abeyance until further order of the Board.²

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.

Grants Expiring. 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 (Greenway). Substantial federal, state, and local dollars have been secured 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.

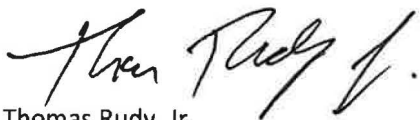
Rescheduled Closing Dates. On April 6, 2022, GROW entered into a Sales Agreement with the Tioga County Board of Commissioners which provided for a closing date of July 29, 2022³. On July 11, 2022, an Addendum was executed moving the closing date to September 30, 2022. On September 22, 2022, another Addendum was executed moving the closing date of October 31, 2022.

GROW, as the owner of the Line, believes that 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 benefit the public interest. 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 County is working with state agencies such as the Department of Transportation, Department of Community and Economic Development and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to develop this economic asset for Tioga County.

Based on the information contained herein, GROW respectfully requests the Surface Transportation Board expedite the processing of Docket Number 1320X and Docket Number 1325X.

Sincerely,



Thomas Rudy, Jr.
Board President,
Growth Resources of Wellsboro Foundation
(GROW)

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



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the attached letter was provided electronically to:

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Thomas Rudy, Jr., Board President
Growth Resources of Wellsboro Foundation

Date: October 27, 2022