

National Association of Reversionary Property Owners (NARPO)
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Office of Proceedings
Washington, DC 20423

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RE AB 55-794X CSX Abandonment Exemption in Pinellas County, Florida

On April 5, 2024 the STB Acting Director, Office of Proceedings issued a Decision denying NARPO's January 12, 2024 request for the STB to deny an extension of a NITU in AB 55-794X.

As the STB is well aware, CSX and GHL, have more then 10 abandonments in which they have had or still have NITUs between themselves. GHL is a subsidiary of CSX. The STB established a rule from EP-749 that basically allows the NITU holder four years to consummate a Trail Use Agreement with the abandoning railroad. If the STB allows the kind of scheme that CSX and GHL are trying to pull off in AB 55-794X, then the four year rule established in EP-749 will end up as a farce. The STB is aware that even the federal Department of Justice is examining the cozy relationship between CSX and GHL—see <https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/17350231/collective-edge-llc-v-united-states/>. If the STB allows the one year extension of the NITU, then that will be a blueprint for other railroads and trails groups to find alter egos to pass over the STB rules at 49 CFR 1152.29(d).

NARPO requests the STB to terminate the NITU in AB 55-763X as of January 12, 2024 which is four years after the NITU was issued..

All Parties of Record and the Department of Justice have been served via email on 4/5//2024.

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