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United States Surface Transportation Board
Room 1034
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Chairman Begeman:

On behalf of our community, I am requesting that a petition submitted by the cities of Fishers and Noblesville as well as Hamilton County, Indiana be denied by your board.

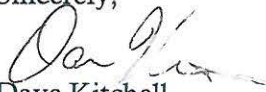
It has come to our attention that a decision to move forward with plans to remove tracks currently under the auspices of the Hoosier Heritage Port Authority would not only be detrimental to existing efforts to transport grain, ethanol, biodiesel and other products from our region, but to excursions and possible commuter lines that may need to be developed in the very near future. Existing traffic problems in Indianapolis and central Indiana recently led to a massive increase in the state gasoline tax, and one of the fastest growing areas of our state is without any form of mass transit. Ripping up tracks also allows other carriers to increase fees and make our goods less competitive with those shipped from other states or countries.

Further, the actions of Noblesville, Fishers and Hamilton County have not been taken with regard to comments from other cities in the region affected by the decision. This is tantamount to two communities and a county in any state requesting that a federal highway be abandoned without seeking input from anyone who uses the highway what their opinion or wishes are.

Finally, this effort does not allow for communities to work together to jointly develop rail/trail corridors where both recreation and transit can co-exist. I am obviously concerned as well that a congressman who does not represent this area has added his support to a project which does not involve his district or impact it. This is not representative democracy.

Thank you for your consideration and the work you do on behalf of our country.

Sincerely,


Dave Kitchell

Mayor

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I certify that these comments have been provided to the Applicant's Attorney of Record. /S/ Mayor Dave Kitchell