

State of Indiana

Senate

Senator Michael Crider
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Homeland Security & Transportation, Chairman
Veterans Affairs & the Military, Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
Rules & Legislative Procedure Committee
Health & Provider Services Committee

August 15, 2018

Anne Begeman, Chairman
Deb Miller, Vice Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W., Rm 1034
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Docket No. FD 36137 City of Fishers, City of Noblesville, and Hamilton
County, Indiana Petition for Partial Revocation of Exemption

Docket No. AB 290_117_X Norfolk and Western Railway Company --
Abandonment between Indianapolis and Tipton in Marion, Hamilton, and Tipton Counties, IN.

Dear Chairman Begeman and Vice Chairman Miller,

The Cities of Fishers, and Noblesville, Indiana, and Hamilton County, Indiana (collectively, the "Petitioners") wish to place under interim trails use a roughly 37- mile railroad known locally as the Historic Nickel Plate Railroad (the "Line"), extending from Indianapolis, Indiana, to Tipton, Indiana.

After receiving approval to pursue interim trail use under Docket No. FD 36137, the City of Fishers filed a trail use request in the proceeding for Docket No. AB 290_117_X. On June 11, US Rail Holdings, LLC filed motions seeking a preliminary injunction and clarification on which of two methods they were to use to acquire the Line.

As Chairman of the Indiana Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation, I have been involved in various discussion concerning some of my constituents' opposition to the propose trail project. While there are many thoughts on the potential utilization of this corridor, the prospect of a railroad company providing restored freight service to businesses along the line while also remaining friendly towards other passenger uses on the line is an ideal and symbiotic relationship. It would almost certainly have a more significant positive impact on our residents' quality of life, especially if a trail could be constructed alongside the rails and within the existing right-of-way.

I write this letter to urge the Board to put the appropriate emphasis on restoring rail use along this viable railroad corridor while crafting its resolution of the pending issues.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael Crider
Indiana State Senator
Senate District 28

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Office of Proceedings
August 23, 2018
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Public Record