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August 28, 2017
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Nickel Plate Railroad

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The following comment was placed in the care of Save the Nickel Plate, Inc.
for submission to the Surface Transportation Board on behalf of Jane White:

Ms. Jane T. White
711 Buckeye Ct
Noblesville, IN 46062

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings Surface Transportation Board
395 East Street, South West, Room 1034
Washington, DC 20024

RE: Docket No. FD 36137

City of Fishers, City of Noblesville, and Hamilton County, Indiana
Petition for Partial Revocation of Exemption

Dear Ms. Brown,

Enclosed for filing to the above- captioned proceeding is an original and ten copies of written comment regarding the "Petition for Partial Revocation of Exemption" filed on August 1, 2017 with the Surface Transportation Board (the "Board"). A copy of this comment has also been served on the attorney, Robert A. Wimbish, who is representing the collective owners, City of Fishers, City of Noblesville, and Hamilton County (the "Owners"), of a railroad line in Indiana.

As a resident of Noblesville, IN for over 30 years, I am writing to you to express my strong opposition of the proposed railbanking and trail use of the railroad line from Indianapolis, IN north to the junction in Tipton, IN. The Owners have petitioned the Board requesting partial revocation extending "only so far as is necessary to facilitate

the Owner's objections" in order to permit them to expedite the process of railbanking the line and converting it in to a trail. The Owners wish to circumvent the full process of revocation, abandonment, and railbanking proceedings to prevent the public to have a role and possibly a negative effect on their plans. We, the city and county residents, have not been afforded the opportunity to engage the Owners to discuss their plan to railbank this publicly owned Line.

I have lived as a Hoosier in central Indiana for over 60 years. During this time, I have utilized the services and activities of the Nickel Plate passenger rail train many times. Residents were shocked when the Port Authority suspended operation of the train in 2016. The Port Authority stated reasons for this suspension that were vague and very controversial. Because the manner in which this situation has been handled, I totally object to the conversion of this train line to be converted to a trail.

· The rail line has proven to be of great benefit through the years to service the people and promote business for each community that it passed through. This includes all along the line from Indianapolis to Tipton, IN.

· Retaining the train can assist in present day concerns with traffic congestion and accidents. The train can offer the desperately needed mode of a mass transit system for this fast growing county. Our roads will only become more dangerous as continued growth with business like IKEA, Top Golf, and others that are being recruited to the area. Plus, the public's increased interest in more entertainment venues such as Conner Prairie Living Museum and the Symphony concerts, Klippish Music Concerts, seasonal festivals, and more. Not to disregard the congestion on the roads to other venues outside of Hamilton County to the south, such as the Indiana State Fair, Colts Foot Ball Games, Indianapolis 500 Mile Race and many destinations to the north to festivals and increasing activities.

· As a resident and legal voter, I am shocked by the actions taken by the Mayor's of Fishers, Noblesville, the Noblesville Mayor's Assistant, and the Port Authority. They have shown a total disregard to the Hamilton County residents as they have planned changes to our community. One can only question these public officials' intentions and their personal integrity.

It appears that the plans to execute the demise of the train line to be changed to a trail has been going on between Mayors offices for some time as emails have been presented recently to that effect. Only after this discover, did the community residents gain any knowledge of what was being discussed behind closed doors. Since that time, the meeting dates and times have been announced but with very short notice, (ie: Posted on a Sunday evening for an 8 am Monday meeting). In addition, the citizens pledging their support of the train that have been in attendance at the meetings have not been allowed the opportunity to voice their options or pose questions. One most question when the local news broadcast presented the same day as the last meeting, interviewed the Mayor of Fishers and he displayed the formal architectural plans of developing the area including restaurants and entertainment. When was this firm hired to drawn up these plans?

The Owners announced in 2016 that the train and tracks are not safe for operation of the train. The question: Why does an official inspection ledger state that the train tracks are in good condition and better than other tracks of similar use? Despite the stoppage of the train, the tracks have been maintained through funds collected previously during times of operation and museum donations, as this is a not-for-profit origination. The Owners have done nothing to maintain the line.

With regard to the bids that were accepted for the train to be reinstated, again the information was withheld from the residence of Hamilton County. How was the

selection process weighed between bidding groups? Why was the decision made to accept the only bid from the group that presented plans for the northern part of the train line and none of those that would run the full line from Indianapolis north to Tipton, IN?

As you can see, I have more questions than answers with regard to the future of the Nickel Plate train tracks and the Indiana Train Museum's future. The Owners are elected officials and have demonstrated their total disregard for the interest of the residents of the communities they represent. I cannot help but question their intentions because of the manner in which they have handled this situation in its entirety.

Please do not approve any actions that will continue to allow prevention of open public participation in this discussion process.

Sincerely,

Jane T. White

I certify that these comments have been provided to the Applicant's Attorney of Record via email. /S/ Logan J. Day on behalf of Jane White | Save the Nickel Plate, Inc. | info@savethenickelplate.org