

August 6, 2017

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August 28, 2017
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Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W., 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 are 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.

I am a resident of Noblesville, IN wishing to express my opposition to the proposed railbanking of the Nickel plate rail line between Noblesville, IN and Fishers, IN.

This rail line was in use up until March 2016 when the Hoosier Port Authority suspended operations due to maintenance concerns. The FRA was brought in by the Hoosier Heritage Port Authority (HHPA) to inspect the line and which found no major concerns that warranted continuing to suspend operation of the line. Even after these findings, the HHPA continued to not allow operation of service on the line.

Later in 2016 the towns of Fishers and Noblesville announced plans to convert the rail line between the two towns to a walking/biking trail. This was very unexpected by the public and since that time there has been much opposition to the trail. The public was given two meetings to voice their opinion to the trail. I attended both meetings and both were overwhelmingly attended by individuals who were opposed to the trail.

In spite of all of the opposition, the owners of the line have continued on with their plan to convert the line over to a trail. There was a recent radio show on NPR radio to discuss the Nickel Plate line controversy and they were not able to find anyone who was in favor of the trail

to represent that side of the controversy. There is also a trail that has been approved and funds have been secured that will run parallel to the proposed trail. If this trail is extended on up to Noblesville it could provide the same access between the two towns as the new proposed trail.

If you drive through Noblesville there are many yards with signs that read "Save our train". I am asking that this proposal to rail bank this portion of the line be denied. There are many uses that have been identified by the current operator and other operators that are being ignored. These include running trains down to the Indiana state fair, Indianapolis Colts games, Indiana Pacers and Fever games and other Indianapolis downtown events. If the rails are removed these opportunities will be lost forever.

Sincerely,

Brent McClain

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