

August 4, 2017

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W., Room 1034
Washington, DC 20024

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
August 28, 2017
Part of
Public Record

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.

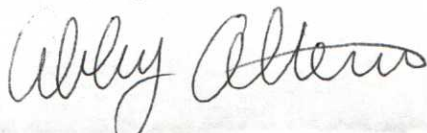
As a resident of Fishers, Indiana for over 10 years, I have seen the importance of having the rails in my community. True, there is an emotional attachment for the history and uniqueness it brings to our city. But, realistically, the need is great for an alternate means of transportation to downtown Indianapolis. Having a commuter rail option is extremely important as traffic and road conditions worsen with each year. It will only be more difficult to implement should current rails be removed.

The leaders of Fishers, Indiana and Noblesville, Indiana have shown they have a biased agenda for removing the rails. According to an e-mail from then Deputy Mayor of Noblesville, Steve Cooke, which was obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, he wanted to fill each of the three public "hearings" on the "rail versus trails" issue with trail supporters. Despite the fact that rail supporters were also noted as being "very vocal" and that there would probably be "standing room only" in the meeting, the Mayor of Fishers, Scott Fadness, claims they listened to the public and a "trail" is what they wanted. Citizens were not even allowed to speak at one of the meetings and at another, they had to reschedule the topic at hand for another date. The politicians can point to no specific surveys, petitions, or other means of proving this support while those in favor of keeping the rails have signs in their yards, T-shirts, have attended various community events showing their support. Of even more importance is the online petition hosted at www.change.org under "Save the Nickel Plate Road" and directly accessible via <https://goo.gl/mkFQ4s>. This petition contains over 6,200 signatures at the authoring of this

letter. In addition, there are nearly 800 paper petition signatures collected directly within the affected communities. We as citizens understand the importance of the rails in our community.

The decision by Mayor Fadness (and not the public) to destroy the rails has led to citizens feeling completely mislead and ignored. We now have no faith in what our leaders are telling us, so why would we believe that in their efforts to destroy rails they would ever return to that as a mode of transportation in the future?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Abby Alterio', written in dark ink.

Abby Alterio

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