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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
2395 E Street, SW, 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

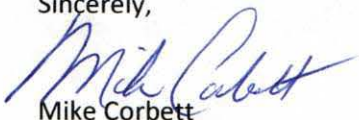
Dear Ms. Brown,

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.

This action by local city officials is blatant government overreach and must be curtailed. The tracks have served a local non-profit organization for some 30 years, providing millions of dollars of economic benefit to the local communities as well as an irreplaceable railroad experience for thousands of people. At a time when we are seeking alternative transportation options due to overcrowded roads, our government is seeking to destroy a productive and profitable enterprise for no apparent reason other than our decision-makers thinking it's a good idea. Cooler heads must prevail. There are few reasons to rip out these tracks and plenty of reasons to retain them. They have been deemed safe by the Federal Railroad Administration. To destroy a perfectly good transportation system such as this would be a waste of resources and an irreplaceable loss to our community.

Railroads petition the Board for abandonment exemption when service on their line proves to be financially unsustainable. However, in this unique situation, the railroad is owned by municipal bodies and was operated by a third-party, non-profit operator as a heritage railway. The railroad was sustained and maintained almost exclusively by ticket revenue and donations. It has proved itself to be profitable and sustainable. It should continue to operate and even expand. With some modest financial investment and a little visionary leadership, the Nickel Plate railroad could continue to operate as a business if our city and county leaders would just get out of the way.

Sincerely,



Mike Corbett