

ENTERED

Office of Proceedings June 17, 2018

June 18, 2018

Members of the Surface Transportation Board (STB): Part of
Public Record

I am writing this letter to you seeking your assistance in regards to docket FD 36025-0. The general public was told that the deadline to have all correspondence and letters pertaining to this docket number delivered to the STB no later than the 31st of May, 2018. It is now the 17th of June and correspondence continues to be posted. It has been noticed that in some cases, the correspondence has been drafted and post dated well beyond the stated deadline of 31 May 2018. In some cases, this correspondence has come from elected officials. I contacted your offices and was told that the reason for the late postings was that the STB allows them as a professional courtesy to our elected officials. I can be reasonably assured that as a retired military veteran, as well as a member of the public in general, I would not be afforded the same courtesy.

Additionally, I understand that there is no written policy stating who is and is not eligible for this courtesy. As you can see, this clearly gives the perception of a double standard or that all are equal, however, some are more equal than others. Let me couch it in these terms: if an elected official misses a floor vote, regardless of their position, passion for the topic, or reason for missing the deadline, the vote is not retaken. I can assure you, if they truly wanted their voice or the voice of their constituents heard, they would be on time. Not only that, but it speaks volumes to their level of professionalism, but that is a topic for another time and outside the scope of this issue.

I am asking that the board respond in writing as to why they continue to allow late submissions and I am also requesting that the board immediately discount all late submissions and remove those late submissions from the portal and consideration. If the board is unwilling to do that, I request that the board announce a new deadline, one that applies to all, and allow the opposition an opportunity to show exactly how unpopular, unfeasible, and damaging this project will be.

I humbly await your reply.

I can be reached at gene.whitesides@yahoo.com or my home phone number 936-348-4693.

Thank you,

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Gene P. Whitesides LTC, USA (Ret)
Directly Impacted Land/Homeowner

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DEIS Plot ID: 10585
Parcel ID: 29979
GEO ID: R-0113-000-0391-901

CF: All Parties of Record