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City of Fishers, City of Noblesville, County of Hamilton
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I am a former volunteer of the Indiana Transportation Museum, and worked on all of its operations of a train to the Indiana State Fair until I moved away from the area in late 2006.

The rail line was purchased by the Hoosier Heritage Port Authority with the intention of preserving it for commuter rail/light rail from Noblesville and Fishers to Indianapolis. The line is paralleled by I-69, which is very congested during morning and evening rush periods. A relief in the form of public transportation is not only desired, but needed.

The Hoosier Heritage Port Authority discerned operational issues with the Indiana Transportation Museum, and solicited proposals to replace it as the passenger rail operator of the line. Now, not more than six months later, the Port Authority wants to remove the rails, thus essentially eliminating any economic advantage of any operator from making use of the line. The Indiana Transportation Museum generated most of its annual revenue from the sale of tickets for its train to the Indiana State Fair. Removing that portion of the line leaves the rest of the line hardly economical to operate.

The Port Authority and its three members have conducted no surveys to determine if a trail is even wanted. The Port Authority has provided no information that indicates that it has taken any steps towards fulfilling its mission of pursuing commuter rail service on the rail line that it owns.

The existing line has value as a recreational/tourist line, and can be restored to Class II track. It should not be abandoned, especially there is no property tax savings to the Port Authority, but developed for rail service as the Port Authority announced that it would do.

I certified that I have this day served a copy of the document upon the Applicant in this proceeding by email.

/s/Kenneth Bush 8/15/2017