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John Ditslear, Mayor

October 10, 2017

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

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Public Record

Ann Begeman, Chairman
Daniel R. Elliott III, Vice Chairman
Deb Miller, Commissioner
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W., Room 1034
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**Re: Docket No. FD 36137
City of Fishers, City of Noblesville, and Hamilton County, Indiana
Petition for Partial Revocation of Exemption**

Dear Chairman Begeman, Vice Chairman Elliott, and Commissioner Miller:

The Cities of Fishers, and Noblesville, Indiana, and Hamilton County, Indiana (collectively, the "Owners") plan to place under interim trails use (or "rail bank") a roughly 35-mile railroad line locally known as the Nickel Plate Rail Line (the "Line"), extending from Indianapolis, Indiana, to Tipton, Indiana. If permitted by the Surface Transportation Board (the "Board"), this transformative project will provide a linear recreational asset for several Indiana communities and spearhead future redevelopment along the Line.

The Owners have petitioned the Board to partially revoke the exemption that they enjoy collectively as joint Owners of the Line, which, if the petition is granted, will allow the Owners to move forward with rail banking the Line.

I fully support the Owners' rail banking initiative, urge the Board to act promptly and favorably on the now-pending petition for partial revocation, and request the Board also to act expeditiously on any subsequent procedure that the agency may deem a necessary prerequisite to the proposed trails use arrangement. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Ditslear
Mayor