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Sarah Boyarko
Senior Vice President, Economic Development

246059

July 9, 2018

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 10, 2018
Part of
Public Record

RE: Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No.779X)

To Whom it May Concern,

As the lead economic development entity serving Trumbull and Mahoning counties in Ohio, the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber (YWRC) requests that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) grant BDM Warren Steel Holdings, LLC (BDM) additional time to submit the appropriate documentation required by the STB. We consider this extension of time justifiable since it was BDM's understanding that they filed an offer of financial assistance on June 11th, 2018. That document listed a per mile valuation, in which BDM is willing to purchase the 13.9 miles of rail. BDM also provided ample information to justify their financial responsibility.

Beyond BDM's efforts to secure this rail line, YWRC requests that the board provide leniency based on the economic value that this rail brings to our community. Due to the limited number of industrial land sites that are rail served, it is imperative that viable rail is preserved. We regularly receive inquiries for rail served sites, and year-to-date we have received 41 inquiries, 11 of which require rail access.

Currently, this CSX line provides access to the BDM sites, both greenfield and brownfield, which runs parallel to a Norfolk Southern line presenting dual access to two Class I providers. There are many developable acres and available buildings along the length of this rail line, many of which we have submitted for potential investment opportunities through our partnership with JobsOhio and national and international site consultants. Notably, we have submitted 650 industrial acres that border this line in 2018.

We are currently managing two industrial attraction opportunities that require dual rail service that may result in several hundred million dollars of investment and nearly 100 jobs. The BDM sites are the only location in our market that meets both companies' requirements; however, these sites will be eliminated with the removal of the rail. Additionally, YWRC is working with two existing companies that have access to this line with anticipated expansions that will utilize rail for final products and raw material transportation.

With all of the points mentioned above, we – the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber - request that the Surface Transportation Board accept BDM's Offer of Financial Assistance to ensure that this economic asset remains intact.

Thank you in advance for you time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Sarah Boyarko". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Boyarko
Senior Vice President, Economic Development
330.744.2131, ext. 1108

CC: all parties of record