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MAHONING VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

4319 Belmont Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio 44505 Phone-330.759.3668

July 9, 2018

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
Washington, DC 20423

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

To Whom it May Concern,

As a regional economic development entity serving Trumbull and Mahoning counties in Ohio, the Mahoning Valley Economic Development Corporation (MVEDC) 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 have been advised that BDM 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. We have also been advised that BDM provided ample information to justify their financial responsibility.

Additionally, MVEDC requests that the board provide leniency based on the economic value that this rail brings to our region. Currently, there is a limited number of industrial land sites that are serviced by rail transportation and it is imperative that viable rail is preserved. MVEDC owns two short-line railroads that serve approximately 20 businesses that employ well over 150 individuals. The loss of this as viable rail endangers one-quarter of those businesses.

The CSX line in question provides access to the BDM site. Loss of this line endangers future development activity at the site. Additionally, there are many developable acres and available buildings along the length of this rail line. MVEDC is aware of two potential industrial development projects that would be endangered by the loss of viable rail service if this line were abandoned.

We request that the Surface Transportation Board accept BDM's Offer of Financial Assistance to ensure that this economic asset remains intact. Please feel free to contact me at 330-759-3668 ext. 120 if you desire additional information on this matter.

Very Truly,


Michael R. Conway
Executive Director

Cc: All Party of Record