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February 5, 2018

Scott Zimmerman
Acting Director, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
February 13, 2018
Part of
Public Record

RE: **Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 775x), CSX Transportation, Inc. -
Abandonment - in Clark, Floyd, Lawrence, Orange, and Washington
Counties, IN**

Dear Mr. Zimmerman,

As the CEO of the Lawrence County Economic Growth Council (LCEGC), it is in my organization's interest the rail line in **Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 775x)** be placed into the highest, and best, economic use possible. The LCEGC mission set pertains to efforts to market the local area, work with existing industry, and diversify our industry base in Lawrence County. Per site selection data from the IN Economic Development Corporation, 21% of the companies looking at Indiana are requesting properties that have railroad access. We realize that the rail line has not been used for 7+ years, however, a company restarting active rail use along the track will allow us to once again market the opportunity and allow existing companies another option for shipping goods.

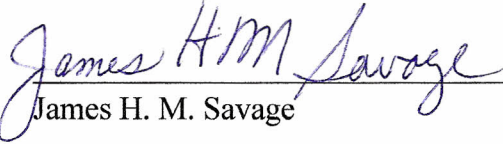
The availability of an active railroad is important to remain competitive in some site selection processes. I am a proponent for trails, as much as a railroad, and am aware of both the trail and individual parties interested in the corridor. However, the economic realities common in the rail industry lead to the inevitable fact that typically once the railroad is gone, it is gone and not coming back. This is a most unfortunate reality that could reduce the economic viability of the corridor. It is my opinion that any group or entity that wants to activate rail in Lawrence County should receive preference in this matter, additional economic impact from trail is preferred over storage or removal of the track system.

Best regards,

Shance Sizemore
CEO

Certification of Service

I, James H. M. Savage, an attorney at law of the District of Columbia, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that I have this 13th day of **February, 2018** served by electronic mail copies of the February 5, 2018 Lawrence County (Indiana) Economic Growth Council support letter in the matter bearing **STB Docket Number AB-55 (Sub-No. 775X), CSX Transportation, Inc. – Abandonment - in Clark, Floyd, Lawrence, Orange, and Washington Counties, IN** upon all parties.


James H. M. Savage

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