

Railroad Passenger Car Alliance
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September 9, 2017
Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W., Room 1034
Washington, DC 20024

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

Dear Ms. Brown:

Enclosed for filing to the above-captioned proceeding of written comment regarding the "Petition for Partial Revocation of Exemption" filed on August 1, 2017 with the Surface Transportation Board. A copy of this comment has also been served on the attorney, Robert A. Wimbish, who is representing the collective owners, City of Fishers, City of Noblesville, and Hamilton County (the "Owners"), of a railroad line in Indiana.

The Railroad Passenger Car Alliance is an national organization dedicated to promoting the preservation and operation of historic railroad equipment, addressing the issues facing equipment owners and working with the nation's railroads including Amtrak to facilitate the operation and movement of member's passenger cars. This organization was formed in 1982 and is made up of over 400 members including: private equipment owners, tourist railroads, railroad museums, railroad corporations, and associated trades.

On behalf of our membership we are writing to express our opposition to the proposed railbanking and interim trail use of the subject railroad line (the "Line") from milepost I- 2.13 at Indianapolis, Indiana, to milepost I-39.69 at Tipton, Indiana. It is our belief that the owners of the railroad line are being very hasty in filing for railbanking and removal. We see no point in removing an existing rail that could easily be reconnected to national rail network; making this a viable line once more.

We the Board of Directors of the Railroad Passenger Car Alliance strongly feel that the owners are not following established protocol for railbanking of this line. This line was operated by a nonprofit heritage railway for over 25 years until 2016 when the owners via the Hoosier Heritage Port Authority had them removed. Currently the line remains inactive because of removal of the previous operator.

If the owners are permitted to remove the rail through this process the likelihood of ever having it replaced is dismal. This means no possibility of future economic development: freight traffic, commuter rail in and out of Indianapolis, or even another heritage railway taking over. Please help us to preserve the history of this line, one of the oldest rail lines in the state of Indiana, by maintaining its presence.

The members of the Railroad Passenger Car Alliance ask that you reject the owner's Petition for Partial Revocation of Exemption.

Sincerely,

Roger Fuehring, President
Railroad Passenger Car Alliance