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Ann D. Begeman, Acting Chairman
Office of Proceedings - Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W., Room 1034
Washington, DC 20024

RE: Docket # FD-36137-0 "Nickel Plate Railroad"

Ms. Begeman,

The Rail Users Network's mission is to advocate for improvement in passenger rail service, whether on Amtrak or on local and regional passenger railroads, as well as transit systems. In this context, RUN is concerned about the recent petition that the Surface Transportation Board has received from Hamilton County along with the cities of Fisher and Nobleville, Indiana regarding their request to convert nine miles of the rail line between these two cities to a walking – biking trail.

Given what we have learned regarding the lack of public input regarding the rail to trail plan, and the potential for restoring train service on the line, which was arbitrarily suspended in 2015, as well as concerns about the process used to select a new railroad operator who will only run trains on the northern portion of the railroad, we urge the Surface Transportation Board to reject any ongoing efforts to unnecessarily impede continued rail service or remove any segments of the entire railroad corridor.

As a national nonprofit organization, RUN represents rail and transit users, as well as advocates who want better rail service in the United States and Canada. Our members represent many states, including Indiana, which is the home state of one member of our Board of Directors.

RICHARD RUDOLPH, Ph.D.,
Chair, Rail Users' Network
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Portland, ME 04103

I certify that these comments have been provided to the Applicant's Attorney of Record via email. /S/
Logan J. Day on behalf of Richard Rudolph| Save the Nickel Plate, Inc. | info@savethenickelplate.org