



STATE OF ARKANSAS
MIKE BEEBE
GOVERNOR

December 8, 2011

231453

231456

The Honorable Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

DEC 08 2011

Part of
Public Record

Re: Caddo Valley Railroad Company-Abandonment Exemption, Docket No. AB
1076X
Caddo Valley Railroad Company-Abandonment Exemption, Docket No. AB
1076X (Sub-No.1X)

Dear Chief Brown:

On behalf of the Southwest Arkansas Regional Intermodal Authority, I am respectfully requesting your consideration to extend the effective abandonment consummation date for the above-referenced docket numbers, as published in the Federal Register, Vol. 76, No. 221, November 16, 2011. The extension would be from December 16, 2011, until June 16, 2012, in order to allow the Southwest Arkansas Regional Intermodal Authority additional time to pursue financing options regarding purchase of the Caddo Valley Railroad.

During the past several weeks, members of my economic development-staff have met extensively with representatives of the Southwest Arkansas Regional Intermodal Authority, the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, and local officials to assess the economic feasibility of purchasing and reopening the Caddo Valley Railroad. Preliminary discussions with prospective businesses and existing employers along the Caddo Valley Railroad indicate imminent possibilities to expand employment should rail service be restored. This could create several hundred new direct jobs in an economically distressed region.

Because of the complex legal and financial issues involved in the purchase, rehabilitation, and future operation of the Caddo Valley Railroad, it is imperative that an extension of at least six months be granted to ensure that a viable offer of financial assistance can be prepared. Such extension will ensure that all optimal financing options, both public and private, are evaluated. However, in no way does this letter imply any offer of financial assistance by the State of Arkansas at this time.

10

I eagerly await your confirmation that an abandonment extension has or will be granted for the above-referenced docket numbers, or, alternatively, please provide the additional documentation required to ensure that an extension is granted prior to the December 16, 2011, effective date.

Should you have questions regarding this letter, please contact me or Arkansas Economic Development Commission Interim Director, Grant Tennille, at 501-682-2052. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Beebe", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Beebe

Cc: Grant Tennille, Arkansas Economic Development Commission
Richard H. Streeter, Attorney at Law
Rex Lawrence, Southwest Arkansas Regional Intermodal Authority
Scott Bennett, Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department
Cliff McKinney, Quattlebaum, Grooms, Tull and Burrow, PLLC