

RE: DOCKET NUMBER, EP-749-0

Cynthia T. Brown, Chief
Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
395 "E" Street, S.W.
Washington D.C., 20423



Save Taxes & Our Property
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246139

(cc: Attorneys: Nels Ackerson & Brent Steele)

July 27, 2018

ENTERED

Dear Ms. Brown,

Office of Proceedings
July 30, 2018

In response to the letters from the National Association of Reversionary

Part of
Public Record

Property Owners, to your board, regarding the issue, of land owner notifications, we would have to be supportive, in many cases, of Mr. Welsh's position. Many times, land owners feel as if a trail has been sneaked in on them, before they had a chance to organize and do anything about it, and they become bitter.

Having been involved in several abandonments, may we offer some information that might be helpful, to all parties. Notifications, to land owners, can be accomplished, easily, by one person; here's how. Let us start with the old fashion way, prior to computers. We were explained this method, by an old postmaster. One person went to the county surveyor's office and looked down the rail bed and collected all the land owners' names, from the plat maps, in about an hour, then looked in the phone book and got their addresses and phone numbers, in about another hour. That person then either mailed them all a copy, of a notification letter or called them, all in about a day. Nowadays, there's inexpensive computer apps available with phone numbers, plat maps, addresses and all. In the few areas where surveyors are not on line, it would merely take a trip down the abandonment path, to survey offices.

It appears, trails people have many local volunteers, in their benefactor groups, railroads have workers, in these areas, or perhaps abutting land owners, could easily reach a very high percentage, with notifications, at a low cost. Today, a teenager, with a computer, could likely accomplish such, in a few hours. The STB might be able to help this process; but, it seems, the federal government, in general, should be responsible. Nevertheless, the process is far easier than it looks. God Bless You.