



Town of Forest City

P.O. Box 728

Forest City, North Carolina 28043

October 28, 2015

Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA)
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 40423

Re: Docket Number AB-568 (Sub-No. 2X and AB-568(Sub-N0. 2X)

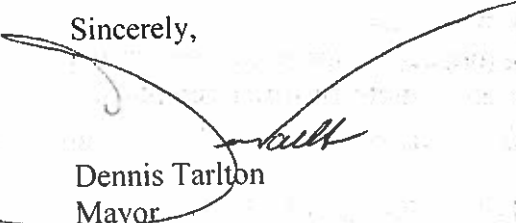
Gentlemen:

The Town of Forest City is aware that Southeast Shortlines, Inc., d/b/a Thermal Belt Railway, and Rutherford Railroad Development Corporation will be filing a Verified Notice of Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to discontinue service on, and to abandon, respectively, the line between Milepost 175.5 near Alexander Mills (28043) and Milepost 180.47 in Spindale (28160), a distance of approximately 4.97 miles in Rutherford County, North Carolina.

It is our understanding that this 4.97 miles will be joined with 8.59 miles of abandoned rail which creates the potential of creating a 13.36 mile "rails to trails" corridor in Rutherford County. The Town of Forest City is a supporter and partner in this effort to create this corridor.

Please accept the Town of Forest City's full endorsement of abandonment. Once ownership is secured, the Town will join other local government in Rutherford County with the goal to assist in the steps necessary for the trail to become a major recreational reality to benefits the residents of Forest City and Rutherford County.

Sincerely,



Dennis Tarlton
Mayor

CC: Jeff Bandini
jeffbandini@parkerpoe.com