

EI-19969



FRIENDS OF THE KAL-HAVEN TRAIL
P.O. Box 156
Lawrence, MI 49064



January 4, 2013

William A. Mullins
BAKER & MILLER PLLC
Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. #300
Washington, DC 20037

Surface Transportation Board
395 East Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

West Michigan Railroad Company
1318 South Johanson Road
Peoria, Illinois 61607

Re: Notice of Intent to Abandon Rail Service STB Docket No. AB-1107X

Mr. William A. Mullins,

The Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail are a 501(c) 3 organization that serves to ensure that the Kal-Haven and Van Buren rail trails are trails that can be used for the enjoyment by the public.

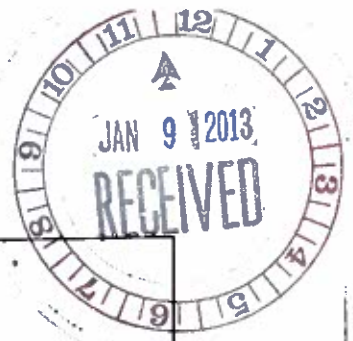
The Friends were made aware of the Notice of Intent to Abandon 10.67 miles of rail line located in Van Buren County, MI extending from milepost 19.88 to milepost 30.55. The Friends along with representatives from the Van Buren County Road Commission, Van Buren County Office of Economic Development, Village of Paw Paw, Village of Lawrence, Lawrence Township, the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study, and the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission are interested in reviewing this potential reutilization of the corridor for public use, with one option being a new rail trail in southwest Michigan. Formal support resolutions will be gathered over the next several weeks to show formal support of this concept.

This connection could provide an opportunity for southwest Michigan to add to the existing trail system in Michigan and provide a needed West to East connect in Van Buren County.

Sincerely,

Larry Hummel-Treasurer
Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail

Enclosure: Village of Paw Paw support letter



Village of Paw Paw

Larry Nielsen, Village Manager
111 East Michigan Avenue, PO Box 179; Paw Paw, MI 49079
Phone: 269-657-3148 // Fax: 269-657-7544
Website: <http://www.pawpaw.net> // Email: l.nielsen@pawpaw.net

January 4, 2013

Mr. Ronald Stolk, Vice-President
Friends of Kal-Haven Trail
PO Box 156
Lawrence, MI 49064

Mr. Larry Hummel, Engineer/Manager
Van Buren County Road Commission
PO Box 156
Lawrence, MI 49064

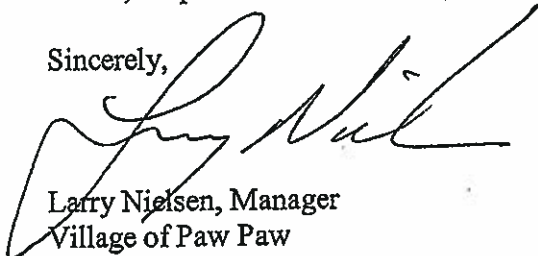
Dear Mr. Stolk and Mr. Hummel,

I write on behalf of the Village of Paw Paw and its sub-entities in support of the concept to develop the 10.67 miles of the WMI railroad right-of-way as a trail. This includes the Village Council, Planning Commission, Downtown Development Authority, Economic Development Committee and the Parks and Recreation Committee.

The abandonment of the railroad presents a unique opportunity to develop the right-of-way as a trail. This opportunity fits very nicely with the Village's 2010 Master Plan, the Downtown Development Authority's development plan, and a recent community visioning plan developed with in conjunction with the EPA's Technical Assistance for Brownfields program. The east end of this trail would be in our DDA district and close to our commercial strip and downtown. The trail would have a great trailhead right in the heart of Paw Paw. The potential for this trail is great.

Please, keep me informed of the progress in pursuit of this concept.

Sincerely,



Larry Nielsen, Manager
Village of Paw Paw